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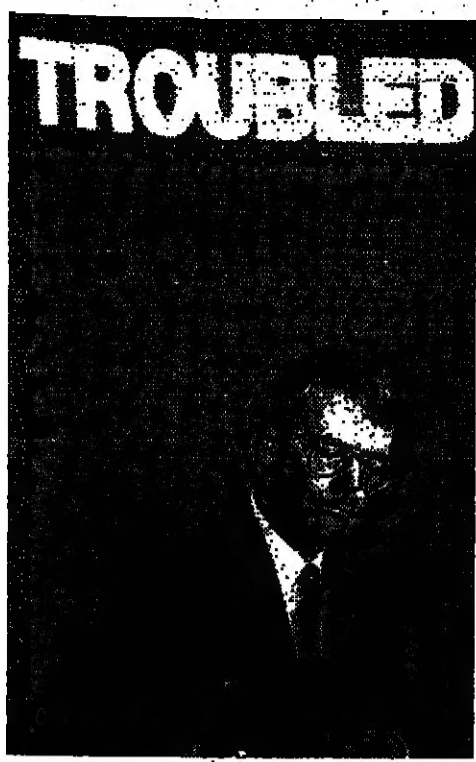
# THE EUROPEAN TIMES

EUROPEAN  
ARTS  
Life & Times section  
Page 14

No 64,289

WEDNESDAY MARCH 25 1992

40p



Central office was embarrassed by this picture of John Major under a slogan: 'The best team in a troubled world.'

## Major trims Labour's lead

BY ROBIN OAKLEY  
POLITICAL EDITOR

THE Conservatives continue to trail Labour in the latest Times/Mori poll, but Labour's lead has been trimmed by two points over the last week from five to three per cent.

Mori measured support 41 per cent for Labour, with the Conservatives on 38 per cent, the Liberal Democrats on 17 per cent and others on 4 per cent. The survey was carried out on Monday among 1,109 voters.

While Labour's lead has slipped since last week's Mori poll, both the Liberal Democrats and others have gained one point and support for the Tories has remained the same. If the findings were repeated on a uniform swing in the general election, there would be a hung parliament with Labour eight

seats short of an overall majority. They would hold 318 seats compared to 296 seats for the Tories.

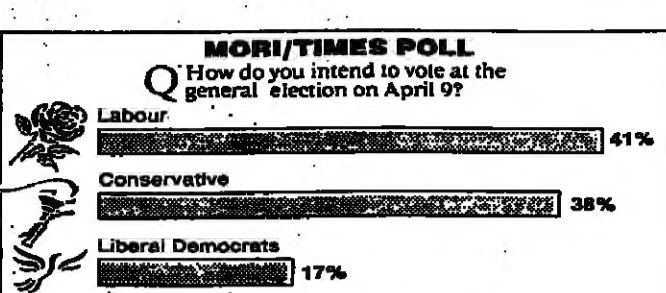
The other key Mori poll points are:

□ Despite a week of Tory campaigning, voters rate tax as only the fifth most important issue, and the Tories lead Labour by only five points as the party with the best tax policy.

□ Voters rate health care as the most important issue and Labour has a 30-point lead in this area.

□ Although the Tories enjoy a slim four-point lead on economic policy, Labour's unemployment plans give it a 24-point lead.

Two other opinion polls also put Labour in the lead last night. A new Harris poll for ITN measured support for Labour at 42 per cent, with the Conservatives on 38 per cent, the Liberal Democrats on 16 per cent and others on 4 per cent. The same organisation gave the Conservatives a



five-point lead in a survey for yesterday's Daily Express.

An ICM poll in today's Guardian puts party support at Labour 40 per cent, Conservatives 39 per cent, Liberal Democrats 17 per cent and others 4 per cent. The findings show that Labour's lead has slipped by three points when compared with ICM's previous poll, and the Tories and Liberal Democrats have each increased their support by one point.

With 15 days left before the

election, a hung parliament seems to be the most likely outcome. Despite attempts to discredit Labour's taxation policies, support for the Tories seems to have stabilised at 38 per cent.

Labour yesterday tried to shift attention to the National Health Service, its greatest strength. Mori's latest findings show that Labour is seen as having the best health policy by a margin of 52-22 over the Conservatives. When Mori asked how much each individual's voting decision would be

swayed by various issues, health care was named by three-quarters of those polled as affecting them a significant amount. Unemployment and managing the economy came next at 71 per cent, followed by law and order on 68 per cent.

The Conservatives, who have focused their campaigning on law and order, unions and foreign affairs in the past 24 hours, will be disappointed to see that taxation, which they concentrated on through much of last week, only shared fifth place with housing and replacing the poll tax in order of influential issues.

They will also be concerned that when people were asked

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TODAY IN  
THE TIMES

ONE HAND ON  
THE BATON



Karajan gave up; so did Mahler and Maazel. What is it about the Vienna Philharmonic? Life & Times, page 1

ONE EYE ON  
THE CARPET



Lynne Truss turns super sleuth to see what a house guest has been up to Life & Times, page 1

ONE FOOT IN  
THE GRAVE



Auntie aims to build on Sunday night winners to reclaim the high ground in the ratings war Life & Times, page 7

## Broadcast puts pain on agenda

BY PHILIP WEBSTER, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

AN EMOTIONAL election broadcast, showing a young girl in pain during a long wait for an ear operation spearheaded Labour's attempt to force health into the centre of the election debate last night. In what seems certain to spark a row, the girl's suffering is contrasted with another girl whose mother pays £200 for private treatment.

The broadcast was based on a case notified to Labour by a father whose daughter had to wait 11 months for an operation, party leaders said last night as they denied charges of exploitation.

The broadcast came as Labour opened up a new front on what it sees as one of

its strongest electoral issues. Neil Kinnock issued a renewed challenge to John Major for a televised debate on health. The Tories demanded that Labour put a price on what it sees as the underfunding in the health service. Mr Major called on Labour to say whether it would be paid for through extra taxation or extra borrowing.

The Tories seized on remarks by Robin Cook, the shadow health secretary, made in a radio broadcast that "all our commitments in our manifesto are intended to take place over the lifetime of a parliament". Mr Cook said the manifesto committed Labour to spending £1 billion extra over the first 22 months of a Labour government. He described that as the first contribution to tackling underfunding. "In future years as we get growth from our recovery package we are looking forward to making further progress."



Dragging in royalty: Australian female impersonator, Gerry Connolly

## Botham and Gooch walk out on royal jokes

BY RAY CLANCY

GRAHAM Gooch and Ian Botham walked out of the official World Cup dinner last night in protest at anti-royal jokes. The England captain and top all rounder were insulted by a drag artist impersonating the Queen.

The pair, among 1,800 guests at the function in Melbourne on the eve of the World Cup final, were visibly upset by jokes which included references to the recent announcement concerning the possible separation of the Duke and Duchess of York.

Seated at separate tables, they had not finished the first course when they glanced at each other, rose to their feet and walked away leaving behind teammates and the entire Pakistan squad whom they meet in today's final at Melbourne Cricket Ground.

Gerry Connolly, whose mimicking of the Queen is well-known in Australia, was wearing a full-length white evening gown, blue sash, white gloves and a tiara when he walked into the room. He wandered from table to table shaking hands with guests and waving regally at others. Carrying a handbag, he walked to the top table and put on a pair of spectacles similar to those worn by the Queen when making speech-

es. "Thank goodness Mrs Thatcher is not standing in this election because she wanted to privatise the royal family and then we would become the Foster's royal family," he joked.

His act appeared to go down well with most of the audience, but faces at the England tables looked grim.

When he took a piece of paper from his handbag and read what was supposed to be a letter from the duchess to the Queen, it was too much for Gooch and Botham.

"I love my country and I can't put up with that sort of crap," Botham was quoted as saying after he left the dinner at the great hall of the Royal Exhibition Building. Both men went straight back to their hotel where they were reported to have gone to bed early.

Bob Bennett the England tour manager, said: "I can understand why they were upset. I know other people from England felt the same way. You could sense the tension on our table. The act was not acceptable as far as I'm concerned." The England team would have preferred a quiet team dinner, but were

Continued on page 16, col 8

Match scorecard, page 30

## No homes saved

Three months after the launch of a clutch of mortgage rescue schemes, not a single family has been saved from repossession. The Council of Mortgage Lenders blames the complexities of the schemes for the delay, but the Nationwide says it has five deals in the pipeline. Page 5

## Kurd clash

Three people were injured and 20 arrested when a Kurdish demonstration outside the Turkish embassy turned into a battle with police. Page 3

## Defence plea

France has renewed its call for sweeping changes to Europe's defence, marginalising America's role in the continent's security. Page 10

## Pru jobs go

The Prudential Corporation is closing its general insurance brokerage at a cost of £146 million with the loss of 400 jobs. The business lost £77 million last year. Page 17

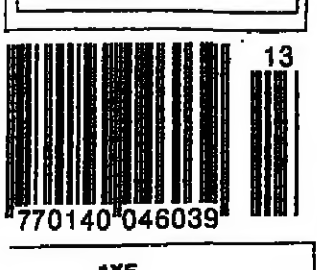
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LIFE & TIMES

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Employers seeking chief executives, managers and other senior staff are advertising tomorrow in 12 pages of appointments in the Life & Times section.



## Russian nuclear leak alarms West

FROM BRUCE CLARK  
IN MOSCOW

A CLOUD of radioactive gas leaked yesterday from a nuclear power station outside St Petersburg, reinforcing alarm about atomic safety in the former Soviet Union.

Russia's State Committee for Emergencies said an accident at the Leningradskaya plant, built to the same design as the Chernobyl power station, had sent ten times more radioactive iodine, and six times more inert gas into the atmosphere than the permitted daily total. But the level of radiation in the area around the plant, which comprises four reactors and is located at Sosnovy Bor, 60 miles west of St Petersburg, "did not exceed the accepted sanitary standards", it said.

A similarly reassuring message was given by Arthur Petrov, head of Russia's atomic safety inspectorate, Gosatomnadzor, who flew to the scene last night. "There is

no increase in background radiation in the area of Sosnovy Bor or the St Petersburg region," he said.

But Carl Bildt, the prime minister of Sweden, which monitored the accident closely, said Stockholm and Russia's other Scandinavian and Baltic neighbours viewed the leak "with the greatest concern", adding: "I myself have in recent months expressed concern about this particular nuclear power station."

Sixteen British students in St Petersburg were advised yesterday to stay inside their university hostel to await further news on radiation levels. "They are all university undergraduates on an 18-week course in Russian at St Petersburg State University. In common with other Britons in the area, they will not be evacuated unless the leak proves more serious than is anticipated."

The station was in the middle of large-scale reconstruction. Work was to start shortly

on the third reactor, where the accident happened at 2.37am local time when a faulty channel sent radioactive iodine spewing into the machine-room and through the ventilation system.

In contrast to the Chernobyl disaster, which was largely hidden from the Soviet public for nearly two weeks, available information about yesterday's incident was aired promptly on state television and independent radio stations. The news sent an immediate wave of alarm through a country where concern about food safety is already running high in the wake of reports that dog meat and products long past their expiry date are being sold in new and poorly regulated flea markets.

While Chernobyl-style RMBK-1000 reactors have always provoked doubts among Western experts, environmentalists said there was even greater concern about the safety of the ten water-based VVER reactors still functioning in the former Soviet block.

Greenpeace, extrapolating from studies by the International Atomic Agency, said there was a one-in-four chance of a serious melt down at one of these reactors within the next five years.

The notoriously unsafe VVER station at Yerevan, the Armenian capital, has been closed on ecological grounds, but the authorities have been tempted to reopen it as a way

Continued on page 16, col 1



Eastern dilemma, page 11

## Cars face the red light in Amsterdam

FROM MARK FULLER  
IN AMSTERDAM

AMSTERDAM residents will vote today in a referendum on whether to exclude cars from the city's historic centre. Opinion polls are predicting a victory for the anti-car lobby, which would make the Dutch capital the first European metropolis to have a traffic-free inner city.

The city's centre, a maze of narrow streets defined by a 17th century girdle of canals, are prone to some of the worst congestion in Europe. Traffic is one of the few issues which can inflame the normally phlegmatic Amsterdammer. Tempers often fray and fights can ensue over the right of way. The only sure way of making progress is to get on a bicycle.

Traffic volume is forecast to get

worse as car use in The Netherlands rises by 70 per cent over the next 20 years. About 130,000 cars try to squeeze into the city each working day, of which the vast majority fight for one of the 17,000 legal parking places in the centre. There is a high turnaround in short-term parking and the remaining vehicles park illegally. Pollution from exhaust fumes has reached critical levels and damage to listed buildings has been estimated at costing between £2 million and £4 million a year.

The referendum was designed by the city council to counteract apathy — only 51 per cent of Amsterdamers bothered to vote at the last local elections in 1990. The referendum offers residents the choice to ban traffic from the centre or to back the council's plan to cut car volume

through a more stringent parking policy combined with infrastructural improvements.

The result of the referendum will not be binding, but the council has agreed to honour the people's choice as long as there are "no serious reasons" for not doing so. A decision will be taken on April 15.

There are several plans on how to create a traffic-free zone, including the use of electronic gates on the edge of the city. One involves an almost blanket ban, letting in only emergency vehicles and taxis. Heavy goods vehicles would be forced to park on the edge of the city with their loads being delivered into the centre in vans. Other proposals would permit residents access. "Nothing will be implemented until after the local elections in 1994," a council spokes-

man said. Critics respond that there are plenty of reasons for not excluding cars. The chamber of commerce estimates a ban would cost the city £30 million in lost revenue and 20,000 jobs. Parking permits for inner city residents could rise by ten times to almost £100 a month.

It is unclear how the city would finance the changes necessary to implement a ban. Creating new parking areas on the edge of the city would cost about £40 million and about £20 million would have to be spent on tearing up existing places in the inner city. Investment in public transport would have to rise by between £75 million and £100 million.

What would the city do without the traffic chaos which so typifies the centre? "Amsterdam could become as dead as Venice," one resident said.

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# Town's patients go private after NHS exodus by dentists

By JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

THE shortage of NHS dentists in the South-East is highlighted in one area of London where only 4 per cent of paying adults have access to NHS treatment. The other 96 per cent go private, or not at all, according to the Bromley family health services authority.

The British Dental Association says the shortage of NHS dentists in the South-East and other parts of the country has been caused by dentists going private, complaining that they can no longer make a living from health service fees.

Yet other dentists are earning well over £100,000 a year from the NHS, although the average is around £35,000, an anomaly neither the health department nor the dental association can explain.

The department says the high earning dentists prove that with good organisation and hard work, NHS fees are more than sufficient. But a survey it commissioned last year showed that dentists are cutting back on their NHS work. One in four are now not accepting all NHS patients. Many turn away patients who pay charges — the only ones likely to agree to pay privately — while continuing to accept children and adults exempt from charges.

The situation is worst in the South-East. In southwest Thames, 48 per cent of dentists are not accepting all NHS patients and in the other Thames regions more than

a third select who they treat. Seventy-three per cent of dentists in Kingston and Richmond are turning away health service patients. Some areas have appointed salaried dentists to fill the gap.

Two factors appear to have increased the drift to the private sector. The sharp rise in NHS dental charges has reduced the differential between the cost of public and private treatment. Patients now pay 75 per cent of the cost of their NHS treatment (up to a maximum of £200, rising to £225 from April 1). Many dentists who have gone private still cost their time at NHS rates and charge patients only 25 per cent more than they were paying under the NHS. But they avoid all the paperwork associated with claiming fees from the health service.

Secondly, under the new dental contract introduced in October 1990, dentists are required to register patients and to accept continuing 24 hour responsibility. They say this increases their paperwork and workload with no increase in income.

However, the number of patients registered under the new contract and the treatment given in the first year exceeded the health department's expectations. The result has been a big boost to average income, taking them well over the target of £33,000 set by the Doctors and Dentists Review Body for 1990-1, and the department is now demanding a 13.8 per

cent cut in fees to bring them back into line.

This has infuriated dentists. In an unprecedented letter to all dentists, Joe Rich, chairman of the British Dental Association's negotiating committee, described the cut as "totally unacceptable". He warned that it could lead to "the collapse of NHS dentistry" and appealed to dentists to "fight for a reasonable fee increase". In meetings across the country dentists have voted to leave the NHS en masse if the cut is imposed. The health department, aware of the sensitivity of the issue before the election, has postponed a final decision until May, pending an enquiry.

But a central paradox remains unresolved: why were many dentists cutting back on health service work even before the fee cut was proposed, when the new contract had boosted earnings 13.8 per cent beyond expectations? Most of the protests and much of the drift to the private sector is taking place in the South-East, where costs of premises and staff are higher, and patients are better off.

"Patients seem happy to pay," said Richard Buckley, whose practice in Bromley has recently gone private. "We have lost very few patients. We have got four surgeries and they are all very busy. There were so many clauses in the new contract that we didn't like. Things were getting out of our control."

The likeliest explanation is that dentists are responding to market pressures. North of a line from the Severn to the Wash there is little private practice and nine out of ten dentists accept all NHS patients.

Both government and opposition remain concerned. William Waldegrave, the health secretary, initiated discussions with the dental association on rewarding dentists who make the greatest commitment to the NHS. Robin Cook for Labour has promised "more money for dentistry".

Leading article  
Letters, page 13



Glimpse into the future: a 1959 issue of Punch priced nine old pence

## Time is running out for Mr Punch

Once, no dentist's waiting room would have been complete without it. Craig Brown bids farewell to the magazine that embodied middle-class whimsy but failed to adapt to changing tastes in humour

waywardness of household contraptions that had become the hallmarks of Punch, substituting brash, rather obvious jokes about the swiftness of TV quiz show hosts and the vulgarity of the MP Edwina Currie. It had become a magazine for yuppies, inopportunistically relaunched when Yuppies had begun to disappear.

Was Punch ever funny? Successive editors failed to laugh at the efforts of their predecessors. In January 1954, the editor, Malcolm Muggeridge, recorded in his diary that he had been looking through the volumes for 1938 and 1939, and that he found them "decidedly depressing — politically, feebly Baldwinian".

Nor did Muggeridge think

much of the readers. He was much taken with Dr Johnson's remark on his publisher: "Cave has no relish for humour, but he can hear it." "Felt this referred to readers of Punch," Muggeridge wrote.

Nevertheless, in its 150 years Punch has scored some notable hits, particularly in the field of parody. The Diary of a Nobody, Molesworth, Lady Adelle, 1966 and All That and A J Wentworth BA, all made their first steps in the pages of Punch, and it is bad luck on the magazine that their fame has served to divorce them from their origins.

Even when the written humour was at its most verbose and leadenly whimsical ("May I permit myself the

luxury of a general reflection of saucerpanst" might be a typical first sentence for a Punch article at almost any time in its history, the cartoons held strong. Pont, Lancaster, Bateman, Marc, Trog and Heath all contributed. Looking through back numbers, it is notable that the cartoons remain alert and funny long after the prose has died a death.

In the 1940s, Punch had a circulation of 144,000. Its dramatic deterioration over the past 30 years can be ascribed to the success of the more biting satire of Private Eye, and the expansion of rival markets for humorous writers in newspapers and in television. The magazine's demise holds one consolation for the present editor, however. At least when it is dead and buried — the last issue is scheduled for April 8 — he will at last be able to agree with everyone else that Punch isn't as funny as it used to be.

## Satire is knocked out by low sales

By MELINDA WITTSTOCK  
MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

PUNCH, the 150-year-old satirical weekly, will cease publication on the eve of the general election unless a buyer can be found to revive it.

The announcement by United Newspapers followed more speculation that the magazine, which lost £1.2 million last year, was about to close. The publishers blamed "a low sale and disappointing advertising revenue".

Sales of Punch, whose contributors have included P.G. Wodehouse and Malcolm Muggeridge, have slumped from a peak of 175,000 in the 1940s to just 33,000 last year. A £700,000 campaign promoting the magazine during its 150th anniversary last year failed to boost sales.

"We needed sales to go up by thousands, but they only went up by hundreds," said David Thomas, the editor, said.

Graham Wilson, United's managing director, said: "People just don't have as much need for a humorous, topical magazine as they once did. To break even, sales would have had to have reached 75,000 and advertising revenue would have had to have doubled."

Mr Wilson said that the company was working to find a buyer before its last issue on April 8 and the magazine's journalists are believed to be considering a management buyout.

Media L&T pages 6, 7

## Sentences on IRA man total 500 years

By EDWARD GORMAN  
IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

ONE of the IRA's most active members was jailed for 22 years at Belfast crown court yesterday and given a total of 500 years in concurrent sentences.

Thomas Martin O'Dwyer, from the Falls Road area of West Belfast, was convicted on 33 counts including four attempts to murder members of the security forces and a string of bomb attacks.

The court had earlier been told that O'Dwyer had helped launch three mortar bomb attacks against police stations. He had planted a culvert bomb detonated in the path of an army vehicle, had tried to blow up the main runway at Belfast international airport and had been involved in a plan to destroy Shorts aerospace complex in East Belfast in November 1989.

O'Dwyer was jailed with Albert Gerard Weir, aged 22, of Belfast, who received 15 years after admitting an act to cause an explosion. James Overend, aged 41, of Belfast, was jailed for two years for allowing the IRA to use his home. David Adams, aged 63, and his wife, Julia, aged 56, of Belfast, were given 12 months suspended sentences for withholding information about the IRA.

## House rescued by £3.5m grant

The future of Burton Constable, a country house near Spalday, north Humber-side, has been secured by a £3.5 million endowment from the National Heritage Memorial Fund. John Chichester Constable, the present owner, has agreed that the house and contents should pass to a new charity, the Burton Constable Foundation. He will be one of seven trustees and will continue to live in the south wing.

The house was offered to and rejected by the National Trust in 1967, when repairs were estimated at about £300,000.

## Asylum request

Twelve of the Indian illegal immigrants arrested after climbing out of a lorry at a service station on the M4 have asked for political asylum. The Home Office said, others say they will return, probably to Germany, and the other is being examined by a psychiatrist. The men are believed to have travelled to The Netherlands via Germany.

## Route cleared

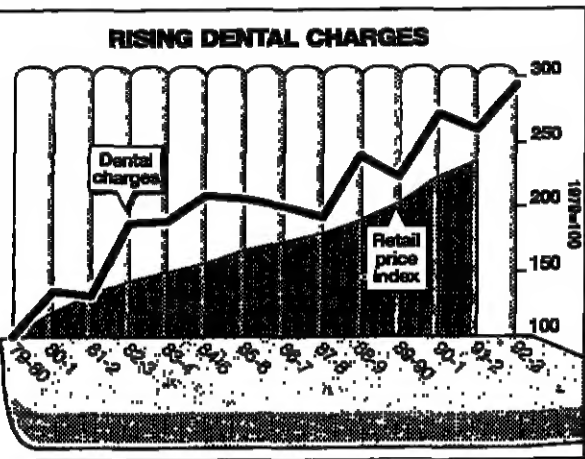
Virgin Atlantic yesterday received the go-ahead to compete with British Airways on the Heathrow and Johannesburg service from October. Richard Branson, Virgin's chairman, said that prices on the five-a-week flights would be the most competitive yet to South Africa. BA and South African Airways charge £4,200 for a first class return, £2,300 for club class and £590 for an Apex fare.

## Police apology

Strathclyde police committee accepted an apology from Leslie Sharp, chief constable of the region, for allegedly racist remarks he made during a cricket club dinner earlier this month. James Jennings, the committee chairman, said: "The chief constable has unreservedly apologised for this and has given us an assurance that he supports our race relations policy."

## CORRECTION

Yesterday's Times incorrectly reported that general practitioners would be subject to the 9 per cent national insurance levy proposed in Labour's shadow budget. As GPs are usually self-employed, they would be exempt from Labour's extension of national insurance.



Leading article  
Letters, page 13

# Where can a business find extra money these days? Try this little box.

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## Registrar failed his patient

By TIM JONES

A HOSPITAL registrar who told police to remove from Glasgow Royal Infirmary a man paralysed after being battered with a plank had four charges against him proven yesterday.

Today, the General Medical Council will decide whether Richard Makower, of Canterbury, Kent, is guilty of serious professional misconduct. A council committee had been told that Gordon McCann, who is now in a wheelchair, was described by Mr Makower as a "nutter" and thrown out of hospital by police who drove him ten miles and left him with his belongings on a grass verge.

Alan Richardson, an honorary consultant in neurosurgery, told the council Mr Makower's action had been "defective in all grounds".

Mr Makower said that on the night that Mr McCann had been admitted, the hospital had been short-staffed and he had been on duty for 15 hours. "I was very tired, and still very tired when I came back at eight in the morning," he said.

Mr Makower added: "When I checked Mr McCann later, I attempted to reinforce my erroneous impression. I wrote what I thought should be there, rather than what I actually found. With the benefit of hindsight, it is obvious I did not perform anywhere near my best."

It was alleged that, on March 11, 1990, Mr Makower failed adequately to examine Mr McCann, failed to arrange x-rays or investigation, and failed to give or arrange treatment. The committee found he had failed to arrange care and treatment and to diagnose the quadriplegic condition, and had made a misleading record.

## Britons catch on to healthier diet

By ROBIN YOUNG

BRITONS are consuming less fat, sugar, eggs and meat, in keeping with modern guidelines on healthy eating, but are defying the doctors' advice by eating more cheese, cakes and biscuits.

They are eating less fish and fewer fresh green vegetables, though consumption of fruit juices has increased greatly and low fat milks make up more and more of the dwindling milk market.

The results of the National Food Survey for last year show that the average household spent £12.69 per person per week on food for consumption at home, excluding alcohol, soft drinks and confectionery, an increase of 57p since 1980, and of £5.48 since 1980.

Exhortations to eat less fat have reduced the national average consumption to 8.76 ounces per person per week, a healthy decrease from the 11.22 ounces of 1980. The use of butter has fallen from more than a quarter of a pound each a week in 1980 to about one and a half ounces today.

Consumption of meat and meat products has also continued to decline, down by more than a sixth since 1980. Carcass meat intake has reduced by almost a third to

11.24 ounces a week in 1991, compared with 16.76 ounces in 1980.

Sugar intake is well on the way to being halved. In 1980 the average consumption was 11.17 ounces. In 1991 it was down to 5.88. Egg consumption is down by half since 1980.

Cheese consumption shows a small increase since 1980, and a marginal improvement since 1990, but fish, whose consumption had climbed to over five ounces per week in 1990, has fallen back to the level of 4.9 ounces, the same amount as in 1985.

Consumption of cakes and biscuits, which had fallen a little, is climbing again, and at 9.32 ounces is above the 1980 level of 9.13 ounces. Potatoes are being eaten much less, down by almost a sixth since 1980. Consumption of fresh leafy salads, cauliflower and broccoli has increased since 1980, but a sharp decline in the popularity of cabbage and brussels sprouts has cut total consumption of fresh green vegetables by almost a third.

Fresh fruit, however, continues to improve its appeal, and intake of fruit juices is very close to trebling since 1980.

	1980	1985	1990	1991
Milk and cream	4.6	4.1	3.8	3.8
Cheese	3.9	3.9	4.0	4.1
Fats	11.2	10.1	9.0	8.8
Eggs	3.7	3.2	2.2	2.3
Meat	40.2	36.8	34.1	33.9
Fish	4.9	5.1	4.9	4.9
Fresh potatoes	41.0	41.0	38.2	38.9
Fresh vegetables	28.3	25.5	26.0	25.4
Processed vegetables	18.2	18.5	18.6	19.2
Fresh fruit	20.8	18.5	21.3	21.5
Processed fruit & nuts	7.3	8.5	10.2	12.0
Sugar & preserves	13.2	10.3	7.7	7.7
Bread	31.1	31.0	28.1	28.5
Cakes & biscuits	9.1	8.7	8.9	9.3
Flour & cereals	15.2	14.1	14.8	15.3
Beverages	3.0	2.7	2.5	2.5

Source: Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food

WE BUY OLD & NEW WANTED \$5000 GUARANTEED MINIMUM IMMEDIATE CASH PAYMENT

ROLEX, CARTIER, PATEK PHILIPPE, Audemars Piguet, Van Cleef & Arpels, Breguet, Jaeger-LeCoultre, H. Moser & Cie, Omega, Rolex, Tudor, Zenith, etc.



# Protest by Kurds turns into battle with police

By STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

THE Police Complaints Authority began an investigation last night into police tactics and the use of truncheons after Kurdish demonstrators tried to rush the Turkish embassy in Belgrave Square. Scotland Yard's complaints investigation bureau called in the authority after one demonstrator was flown unconscious to hospital with head injuries.

The enquiry started after conflicting reports of the scene outside the embassy as police reinforcements were drafted in to confront about 200 demonstrators. Police say the demonstrators, who stoned the embassy and broke a number of windows, were armed with an axe and a sledgehammer and caught a unit of about 20 police unaware. However, some witnesses accused the police of being too aggressive.

The injured man was taken to the Royal London hospital by helicopter. Later the Yard said he was not as seriously injured as first thought. Two men were treated for injuries, one for seven stitches, and a police officer was taken to Westminster hospital with head injuries, broken fingers and shock and then released. Twenty people were arrested at the square and another eight were held later when about 50 demonstrators occupied part of Bush House, headquarters of the BBC World Service.

Police were at the scene because they had been told at very short notice that there would be a small demonstration. The police were "shocked and surprised by the ferocity" of the attack. Extra officers were called in until there were about sixty at the square. No police with riot equipment were available and the officers drew their truncheons.

Kathy Shurt saw the clashes from her office. She said: "What I saw was disgusting. There were demonstrators lying on the floor being kicked and beaten up with truncheons by the police."

Another witness, Adam Baker, from the Local Government Management Board, said police had been attacked by the protesters. He said: "I would certainly say they [the police] were provoked. The demonstrators were very aggressive, hitting cars and throwing things."

Estella Schmid, of the Kurdish Information Centre, said: "It was a spontaneous march starting in Marble Arch. The police tried to stop them. Half the people there were women and children. The fact is that the police attacked the march. There was no provocation."

Chief Superintendent Alan Evershed, of the Yard's diplomatic protection group, said: "I don't know anything about excessive force. The demonstrators were armed with pick axe handles and club hammers."

*London analysis, page 10*



Street violence: police stand in front of smashed windows at the Trinidad embassy, mistaken by demonstrators for Turkey's. Top, a Kurdish demonstrator is helped to an ambulance after the battle. Above, Kurds protesting at treatment to their countrymen outside the Turkish embassy before the violence started



## Barbecue battle led to death

A DISPUTE over smoke from a barbecue ended in death, the Central Criminal Court was told yesterday.

Andrew Kyriacou, a driving instructor aged 36, lit the barbecue in his patio garden in Southwark, south London, one afternoon last July. The smoke from it annoyed Terrace Norman, a lorry driver, whose balcony overlooked the patio.

Mr Norman and his wife complained loudly and abusively, and followed up their complaints with two buckets of water which hit the barbecue and splashed Mr Kyriacou. Mr Kyriacou, his wife Kay and their daughter Zoe aged two, David Calver-Smith, for the prosecution, said.

Mr Norman, aged 53, then challenged Mr Kyriacou who ran up to the Normans' flat and kicked in the door. A fight broke out, starting with fists but in which both men hit each other with a rock, used by the Normans as a door stop. Mr Calver-Smith said.

Two witnesses saw Norman take hold of a knife near the balcony door and stab Mr Kyriacou in the chest, he continued.

Mr Kyriacou died from a massive haemorrhage in his lungs. Mr Norman was said to have told police that what happened was self defence. He denies murder.

The trial continues today.

## Home head accused of child sex abuse

By PETER DAVENPORT

A SOCIAL worker in charge of a children's home abused young boys placed in his care and protection, a jury was told yesterday.

Christopher Oldfield, the officer in charge of the council-run Elm Tree Farm community home at Stockton on Tees, Cleveland, was regarded as a father figure by all the children in his charge. Newcastle upon Tyne crown court was told. He is accused of betraying their trust and subjecting them to six years of abuse for his own sexual gratification.

Mr Oldfield, aged 49, denies seven specific charges of indecent assault and one of buggery involving seven boys between 1977 and 1983.

Although one child complained about his treatment in 1983 the abuse continued because police did not believe his allegations, the court was told. Mr Oldfield was arrested at the end of 1990.

The boys believed that they were the "favoured few" when Mr Oldfield invited them to his flat to watch video films or for holidays in his cabin cruiser on the Leeds-Liverpool canal, but he betrayed their trust and subjected them to a variety of sexual offences. James Spencer, QC, for the prosecution, told the court.

The trial continues today.

## BBC bans repeats on prime time TV

By MELINDA WITTSTOCK, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

REPEATS, American series and big-prize game shows are to be banished from prime time BBC schedules from this autumn as part of a five-year plan aimed at keeping television audiences big enough to justify the licence fee.

Will Wyat, managing director of BBC Television, is determined to prove that it can entertain and inform, while offering something that his commercial rivals do not provide. He has promised hundreds more hours each year of original drama and comedy, as well as new light entertainment formats subtly more upmarket than those of ITV. An extra £60 million a

## McGuigan banned for 129mph drive on coastal road

By ALISON ROBERTS

BARRY McGuigan, former world featherweight boxing champion, was fined £300 and banned from driving for eight weeks yesterday for speeding.

McGuigan was caught driving his BMW 325i at 129mph on November 9, last year, on the north Wales coastal road as he returned home to Faversham in Kent. He had spent the previous night judging a Miss Boxer shorts competition in Llanudno, magistrates in Flint were told.

Darell Jones, for the prosecution, said that police had pulled McGuigan over on the eastbound carriageway of the A55 at Caerwys, Clwyd. The

retired boxer, aged 31, apologised and said that he was rushing to get home to be with his son, Blane, aged eight, who had an ear infection. "I didn't realise I was doing anything like that speed," he said.

McGuigan's solicitor, John Gregory, said the speed that the officer clocked had frightened McGuigan and within ten days he had sold the BMW. He now drove a four-wheel drive vehicle with a top speed of 85mph.

McGuigan said after the hearing: "Eight weeks is a long time with the amount of travelling I do."

McGuigan was described as a sports commentator and after-dinner speaker who also did charity work. He drove up to 70,000 miles a year. During the eight-week ban he will employ four drivers to take him around the country.

McGuigan was worried about the effect of the incident on young people who looked up to him, Mr Gregory said.

McGuigan is appealing against a High Court decision ordering him and the Channel 5 video company to pay his ex-manager Barney Eastwood £450,000 damages plus costs for libel over claims he made in a video film.

## How The Times spurned Trollope travel tales

By MATTHEW D'ANCONA

"When speaking of the press," Anthony Trollope wrote, "it is impossible to do other than speak of *The Times*." Yet the newspaper that Trollope regarded as an institution of the realm did not return the compliment to the great novelist, it was disclosed last night.

More than a century after the event, Simon Jenkins, editor of *The Times*, told 250 guests at the Trollope Society's annual dinner in London of a hitherto unknown gaffe in the newspaper's history, undusting a rejection letter that it

sent to Trollope, dated April 17, 1871.

"Reluctance to say No has made me postpone a disagreeable task," Mowbray Morris, general manager of *The Times*, wrote in reply to an offer from Trollope to write for the paper during a visit to Australia.

"We feel flattered by your offer to place a practised pen and a popular name at our disposal, but the Editor doubts his being able to give you the ample space enough to develop your subject." Trollope found plenty of space in his own pages to satirise the newspaper, as *The Jupiter*, represented by Tom Towers — a charac-

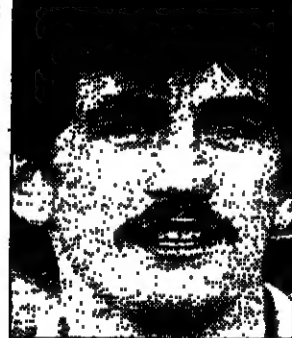
ter who Trollope insisted was not based on John Thaddeus Delane, editor of *The Times* for 36 years of the last century.

Trollope savaged inaccurate reporting and editorial arrogance, caricatured the worst journalistic tendencies, and created in Quintus Slide, editor of the fictional *People's Banner*, a character "not remarkable for his clean linen", which may be uncomfortably familiar to today's tabloid hacks.

Yet Trollope's fascination with the press was undimmed by the sharpness of his wit. Though dismissive of his reviews, he remembered them

word for word. Newspapers were central to many of his 47 novels, at present being edited by the Trollope Society, and epitomised the brave new England of swift communication that so entranced him.

Furthermore, as the present editor of *The Times* remarked, the novelist's style remains a model to all serious newspaper writers aspiring to a lucid prose that shuns abstraction and ripples with human character. Last night, *The Times* offered its apologies to Trollope for such a slip of judgment, but did it in a form that he would surely have appreciated: a scoop.



McGuigan: "Rushing to see sick son"

### LEGAL NOTICE

## ATTENTION!!! IMPORTANT NOTICE TO PEOPLE WITH BJORK-SHILEY CONVEXO-CONCAVE ARTIFICIAL HEART VALVES (NOT THE MONOSTRUT) AND SPOUSES

This notice is for people with the Bjork-Shiley Convexo-Concave ("C-C") artificial heart valve, and their spouses and this informs you of your legal rights.

There has been a problem with a small number of these particular valves.

If you or your spouse has another Bjork-Shiley valve, such as the Monostrut, or some other manufacturers' valve, then this notice does not apply to you.

This is a legal notice to notify you of a lawsuit in the USA which also affects people outside of the USA. If you have a Bjork-Shiley C-C valve you are entitled to money and other benefits.

There is no medical information in this notice. If you have any medical questions about your valve, you should ask your doctor or the implanting hospital.

### THE LAWSUIT

A lawsuit in Cincinnati, Ohio, USA, has been filed on behalf of all people in the world with the Bjork-Shiley C-C valve. The name of the lawsuit is *Bowling, et al v Shiley Incorporated and Pfizer Inc*, Case No C-1-256. It is pending before Judge S Arthur Spiegel in the US District Court in Cincinnati, Ohio. This notice provides you with some brief information about this lawsuit.

### HOW DO I KNOW IF I HAVE A C-C VALVE?

If you received a heart valve before 1979, or after 1986, you probably do not have a C-C valve.

You can tell if you have a C-C valve by looking at your implant card if you received one after your surgery. If you have a Bjork-Shiley valve and the serial number of your valve has the letter "C" in it, you have a C-C valve. If the serial number does not have the letter "C", you do not have a C-C valve. Your doctor may also be able to help you find out if you have a C-C valve.

ONCE AGAIN, IF YOU DO NOT HAVE A C-C VALVE, THIS NOTICE DOES NOT AFFECT YOU. IF YOU DO HAVE A C-C VALVE, PLEASE READ THIS NOTICE CAREFULLY.

### WHAT DOES THE SETTLEMENT PROVIDE?

The settlement being considered by the court in Ohio provides:

- a payment to you or your spouse that can be used for any purpose, including consultation with a physician or other health care provider;
- additional medical research that may benefit you;
- the availability of a guaranteed, prompt settlement should a fracture of the valve occur. In that event if you do not accept the guaranteed payment, you may seek compensation through arbitration, or file a lawsuit.

Please complete the "Information Form" to obtain more details about the settlement.

### ADVERTISEMENT

#### THE HEARING

A hearing on the settlement will be held before Judge Spiegel on June 5th, 1992, at 10.00am, Courtroom 842, United States Post Office and Courthouse, 100 East Fifth Street, Cincinnati, Ohio, USA, to determine whether the settlement is fair. You or your lawyer may attend.

#### WHAT SHOULD I DO NOW?

If you have reason to believe that you or your spouse has a C-C valve, you should get more information by completing and returning the "Information Form" below without delay.

Returning the "Information Form" will not commit you to any course of action, but will provide you with the information you need to protect your rights. Also, returning the form will assure that the court has your name and address so that you can receive the money and other benefits of the settlement, if you do not exclude yourself from the lawsuit.

You may feel you need further legal information. If so you may receive it without charge to yourself by indicating this in the appropriate space on the "Information Form".

You may also object to the settlement, or exclude yourself from the lawsuit. These terms, and their implications for you, are explained in the information you will receive after you return the "Information Form". You will not be able to object or exclude yourself, however, unless you do so in writing to Daniel J. Lyons, Jr., Deputy Clerk, United States Post Office and Courthouse, 100 East Fifth Street, Cincinnati, Ohio 45202, USA, by no later than June 1st, 1992.

If you do not exclude yourself, you will be bound by the settlement and will not be allowed to bring a lawsuit relating to your or your spouse's C-C heart valve, except to enforce the settlement agreement or if the valve malfunctions.

#### IMPORTANT

To protect your rights, you should get more information.

#### INFORMATION FORM

Name of valve recipient	_____
Address	_____
Spouse name	_____
Address if different	_____
Mail to: Stanley M Chesley Esq Waite, Schneider, Bayless & Chesley Co., L.P.A. 1513 Central Trust Tower Cincinnati, Ohio, 45202 USA FAX (513) 621-0262	
Mr Chesley is a lawyer appointed by the court to represent C-C valve patients and their spouses worldwide. I would like to be contacted by a European based lawyer appointed by Mr Chesley who will communicate with me in the following language (indicate one only):	
<input type="checkbox"/> Dutch <input type="checkbox"/> English <input type="checkbox"/> French <input type="checkbox"/> German	
<input type="checkbox"/> Greek <input type="checkbox"/> Italian <input type="checkbox"/> Portuguese <input type="checkbox"/> Spanish	
Please obtain proof that you or your spouse is a recipient of a Bjork-Shiley C-C heart valve. You will be asked to provide this information at a later time to support your claim.	



## Equal opportunities conference

## Police chief accuses officers of sex bias

BY STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

A WOMAN police officer who wanted to join a motor-cycle course was taken to a heavily loaded 1,000cc machine left lying on its side and told she could have a place if she lifted the machine, an international police conference on equal opportunities was told yesterday. No male officers had to pass the test.

The challenge was not an isolated example of discrimination, according to Baden Skitt, chief constable of Hertfordshire and the chairman of a national police committee on equal opportunities. When he asked a female officer to question her colleagues about discrimination, all 14 officers said they had been discriminated against and 13 also reported sexual harassment although they had not been asked if that had happened.

Mr Skitt, speaking to a week long conference on equality organised by the Home Office and a European network of women police officers, said the 14, taken from a

number of forces, might not be large enough to comprise a sample group but if "discriminatory practices were found to be present for such a small group it must give cause for concern about the extent to which it may be prevalent".

In another case, a woman officer who wanted to become a detective was questioned by her sergeant about her religion. Mr Skitt said when she disclosed she was Roman Catholic the sergeant said he would only recommend her if she could prove she was taking the pill. He said he did not support someone for CID work who could become pregnant and leave.

He also pointed to the case of a woman officer in a traffic department who applied to take a course for a heavy goods vehicle licence. She was refused several times and eventually told women were not allocated to the course. She took the course privately and qualified, and was then instructed to drive the trucks.

Addressing over 300 delegates from Britain, Europe, America, and the Far East, Mr Skitt said the way to combat the discrimination was to ensure cases were brought out into the open and pursued through grievance procedures if necessary. Police managers had to learn discrimination was unacceptable and why. Support groups should also be encouraged.

"The message has to be in cases of personal discrimination, whatever happens, get the problem out in the open, train people and provide the support by which it can be recognised and dealt with," Mr Skitt said.

Sir John Woodcock, chief inspector of constabulary, said that the number of women police officers had risen from 14,513 in 1990 to 15,061 last year, representing more than 11 per cent of the total strength.

Women and work  
L&T section, pages 4, 5



Faces of courage: three children from Northern Ireland who were among 48 presented with Young Citizens' awards for bravery at London's Guildhall yesterday. Andrew Ferguson, aged eight, was forced to watch as IRA gunmen shot dead his father after bursting into the family's home in Belfast nearly a year ago.

Orla and Maev O'Reilly, identical twins aged 12, from Derry, helped their father to care for their nine brothers and sisters after their mother died last October. The awards, set

up in memory of Ross McWhirter, former editor of the Guinness Book of Records, who was killed by an IRA bomb in 1975, were presented by Sir Brian Jenkins, Lord Mayor of London and the comedian Frank Carson.

Two teenage boys won the top awards. Thomas Roberts, aged 15, saved his teacher's life after a man burst into the classroom and shot the teacher in the arm. Thomas, of Keynsham, Bristol, used his shirt as a bandage to stem the bleeding. Christian Bury, aged 16, from Westcliff-on-

## Reluctant patients risk dying of cancer

BY JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

EMBARRASSMENT and a reluctance to trouble the family doctor with minor symptoms are costing 15,000 lives a year through delayed diagnosis of two of the most common cancers.

Better surgical techniques have brought significant improvements in survival rates for patients with stomach and bowel cancer, specialists from the British Society of Gastroenterology said yesterday. In the best centres a cure rate of more than 90 per cent is being achieved for patients in the early stage of the diseases.

But squeamishness about reporting blood in the stool, the commonest early warning sign of bowel cancer, and a reluctance to complain about indigestion, the commonest sign of stomach cancer, are sending patients to an early grave.

Roger Leicester, consultant colorectal surgeon at St George's Hospital, London, said that of the 24,000 new cases of bowel cancer seen every year, well over half were incurable because the disease was too far advanced.

A study in Nottingham, to be presented to the society's spring meeting in Sheffield this week, showed that when the population was offered a simple screening test to detect occult (invisible) blood in the stool, the proportion of bowel cancers detected at the earliest stage rose from 10 to 50 per cent compared with 5 per cent nationally. Of 77,500 people offered the test just over half accepted it.

Often, however, the bleeding is obvious but patients do nothing about it. "Any patient over 45 with persistent rectal bleeding should consult their GP especially if the blood is dark red or mixed in with the stool," Michael Robinson, author of the Nottingham study said.

Mr Leicester said 12,000 of the 17,000 deaths a year from bowel cancer might be prevented if patients and doctors were more alert to warning signs and hospitals had adequate diagnostic facilities. Bowel cancer was second only to lung cancer in men, killed seven times as many as cervical cancer in women, and was increasing, he said.

Specialists said that 3,000 of the 10,000 deaths a year from stomach cancer could be prevented by earlier referral and the provision of more facilities for endoscopy in hospitals.

## Gunman 'heard voices'

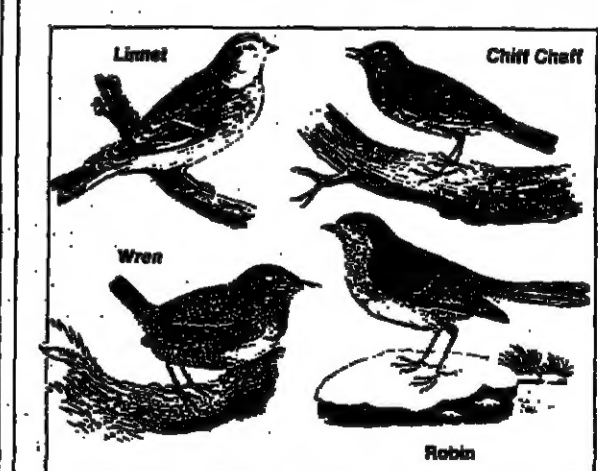
BY PETER DAVENPORT

ALBERT Dryden, accused of murdering a council planning officer in a dispute over an illegally built bungalow, yesterday said that he had been "plagued" by voices before and after the killing.

Mr Dryden told Newcastle upon Tyne crown court that he remembered a bulldozer that was to be used in the demolition of his home being unloaded. "I visualised it coming through the fence and smashing the house and I thought about the livestock and I snapped," he said. After that his mind went blank.

Earlier he claimed that the long-running dispute had left him so depressed that he had repeatedly played "Russian roulette" with the revolver involved in the alleged murder, but the hammer had always landed on empty.

Mr Dryden, aged 51, denies murdering Hans Collinson, a planning officer with Derwentside council, and three charges of attempted murder. The trial continues today.



## Songbirds' silence blamed on weather

BY NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

THE wren, the whitethroat and the chiff-chaff are having a hard time. With a wide range of other British birds, their numbers declined last year, a time when the sound of songbirds was still.

Results of an annual survey of bird numbers by the British Trust for Ornithology show that for many species last year was the worst since the survey began in 1981. Among resident birds there were fewer dunlocks, blackbirds, song thrushes, blue tits, linnets and reed buntings than in any of the past ten years, while among the migrants the same was true of the reed warbler, the whitethroat, the lesser whitethroat and the willow warbler.

Writing in *BTO News*, Will Peach and Stephen Baillie of the trust, mainly blame the weather. Two weeks of severe winter in February last year, accounted for the huge reduction in the numbers of wrens and other small resident birds. Cold, wet weather in June reduced the numbers of surviving young of most species.

Among the migrants, drought in the African win-

tering grounds and stormy weather over the Mediterranean when they were flying back appear to have claimed many lives. Of 23 species whose numbers were measured last year, all but one — the chiff-chaff — had declined since 1990.

The birds were counted by setting up mist-nets at more than 100 sites across Britain in the same place and for the same length of time on 12 mornings between May and August. The numbers of adult birds of different species caught in the nets provide a year-by-year comparison. The greatest declines last year were the wren, down 54 per cent, the whitethroat, down 44 per cent, and the chiff-chaff, down 46 per cent.

## AMP SOCIETY

AUSTRALIAN MUTUAL PROVIDENT SOCIETY  
INCORPORATED IN NEW SOUTH WALES. MEMBERS' LIABILITY LIMITED.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
NOTICE is hereby given that the 143rd Annual General Meeting of the members of AMP Society will be held at the Regent Hotel, 25 Collins Street, Melbourne, Australia at 2.30 pm on Wednesday 29 April 1992 to receive and consider:

- the report of the Directors,
- the balance sheet, revenue account and related notes and the report of the Auditor,

in respect of AMP Society and the AMP Society Group for the year ended 31 December 1991.

Proxy forms will be supplied to any member of AMP who applies either personally at any of AMP's major customer service centres or in writing to the Secretary at the address below.

A member entitled to attend and vote may appoint a proxy to attend and, where there is a ballot, vote instead of the member. A proxy must be a member, except where the appointor is a corporation. Forms must be deposited with the Returning Officer at the address below not later than 48 hours before the Annual General Meeting.

AMP Society  
34th Floor  
AMP Building  
Alfred Street  
SYDNEY COVE  
New South Wales 2000  
AUSTRALIA

By order of the Board  
D.G. Robinson, Secretary  
25 March 1992

AUSTRALIAN MUTUAL PROVIDENT SOCIETY  
INCORPORATED IN NEW SOUTH WALES. MEMBERS' LIABILITY LIMITED.

NOTICE OF GENERAL MEETING  
NOTICE is hereby given that a General Meeting of the members of AMP Society convened by the Directors pursuant to By-law 9.1, will be held immediately following the conclusion or declaration of adjournment of the Annual General Meeting to be held at the Regent Hotel, 25 Collins Street, Melbourne, Australia at 2.30 pm on Wednesday 29 April 1992 for the purposes of considering and, if thought fit, passing the following resolutions amending the By-laws of the AMP Society:

- To consider, and if thought fit, to pass the following resolution as a special resolution:

"THAT the By-laws Part 1 be and are amended by deleting the references to 'the Companies (New South Wales) Code' and 'the Companies (New South Wales) Code 1981' and substituting 'the Corporations Law' in each case."

- To consider and, if thought fit, to pass the following resolution as a special resolution:

"THAT the By-laws Part 2 be amended as follows:

- Delete all references to "Code" wherever appearing in the By-laws and substitute "Law".

- Delete all references to the "Foreign Takeovers Act 1975" wherever appearing in the By-laws and substitute "Foreign Acquisitions and Takeovers Act 1975".

- By-law 1

Delete the existing definition of "the Actuary" and substitute:

"the Actuary" means the appointed actuary from time to time appointed for the purposes of the Life Insurance Act."

- Delete the definition of "Appointed Actuary".

- Delete the definition of "Code".

- Delete from the definition of "Foreign Persons", the words "Section 5(1) of".

- After the definition of "Foreign Person", insert:

"Law" means the Corporations Law as it applies to AMP from time to time."

- By-law 2.6

Delete "related to" and substitute "a related body corporate of that other corporation for".

- By-law 5.1

Delete the existing By-law and substitute:

"5.1 Superannuation

Where a Subsidiary is or proposes to become the Policyholder of a Policy or other insurance of, or on behalf of, one or more superannuation plans or other trusts or as manager under management agreements established for the purposes or benefit of AMP clients, the Directors may in their absolute discretion (and subject to any conditions that they may impose) determine that any person associated with the relevant plans, trusts or agreements as trustee, employee, beneficiary or otherwise who is specified by the Directors shall be Members in lieu of the Subsidiary and be entitled to exercise the number of votes calculated in respect of the relevant Policy under By-law 15. If 2 or more persons are so specified as the Members, the Directors shall determine how the available votes for the Policy shall be divided between them."

- By-law 6.1

Delete "Section 240" and substitute "Section 245".

- By-law 6.3

After "meetings", insert "and annual general meetings".

- By-law 13.1

Delete the second sentence.

- By-law 14.2

Delete the existing By-law and substitute:

"14.2 Result of a show of hands

- On a show of hands each person present (not being a Minor) who is a Member or a proxy, attorney or representative of a Member appointed in accordance with By-law 16 shall have one vote only.

- Notwithstanding By-law 14.2(a), on a show of hands the chairman shall have one vote as a Member and an additional vote for each Member who votes on the resolution by post in accordance with By-law 14.5, each such vote to be cast in the manner directed on the postal vote.

- A declaration by the chairman that a resolution has been carried (or that it has been carried unanimously or by a particular majority), or that it has been lost, together with an entry to that effect in the minutes of the meeting shall be conclusive evidence of the result.

- By-law 21.3

In paragraph (a), delete "and By-law 17.2 has been complied with".

- By-law 21.3

In paragraph (b), delete the words "and there is a

without proof of the number of votes for or against the resolution."

- By-law 14.4

(a) Number the existing By-law paragraph "(a)".

(b) Insert the following as paragraph "(b)":

"(b) Postal votes lodged under By-law 14.5 shall be taken into account as a ballot notwithstanding that postal voters have voted on the question at issue under By-law 14.2."

- By-law 14.5

Delete the existing By-law 14.5 and substitute:

"14.5 Postal voters' roll

AMP shall keep a roll of postal voters in accordance with the Life Insurance Act. Members entitled to vote may have their names entered on that roll and those who do so may vote by post on the election of Directors and on the amendment of the Memorandum or By-laws."

- By-law 15.2

Delete "At" at the beginning of the By-law and substitute:

"Without prejudice to By-law 22.5(b), at:"

- By-law 15.3(a)

Delete "CHASE AMP Bank Limited (or another bank selected by the Directors)" and substitute "a bank selected by the Directors".

- By-law 15.7

Insert as a new By-law after By-law 15.6:

"15.7 Declaration of voting entitlements

(a) For the purposes of By-law 15.2, the number of votes which a Member is entitled to cast at a ballot shall be determined from the records of AMP as at the close of business on the effective date (as defined below) and the number so determined shall be final and conclusive in determining a Member's voting entitlements.

(b) The effective date shall be the date 21 days prior to the date of the relevant meeting or such later date as the Directors may determine or in the case of an election of Directors, the date determined by the Directors under By-law 22.1."

- By-law 16.1

Delete "and/or" and "or any ballot".

- By-law 16.2

Delete the existing By-law 16.2.

- By-law 16.3

(a) Re-number By-law 16.3 as 16.2.

(b) Delete "Section 5(1) of".

- By-law 16.4

Re-number By-law 16.4 as 16.3.

- By-law 16.5

Re-number By-law 16.5 as 16.4.

- By-law 16.6

Re-number By-law 16.6 as 16.5.

(a) Delete the title of By-law 16.6 and substitute "Deposit requirements (including postal votes)".

(b) Delete "deposited with" and substitute "received by".

(c) Delete the balance of By-law 16.6 after "lodged" and substitute:

"(a) the proxy paper or power of attorney and any supporting documents required by these By-laws or a copy of the power of attorney certified by statutory declaration or in other acceptable manner;

(b) postal votes made under By-law 14.5.

These documents may be deposited by facsimile transmission."

- By-law 16.7

(a) Re-number By-law 16.7 as 16.6.

(b) Delete "16.3" and substitute "16.2".

- By-law 17

Delete the existing By-law 17.1 and substitute:

"17.1 Number

The number of Directors shall be 12 or such number being not less than 10 nor more than 14 as the Directors shall from time to time determine, all such numbers being inclusive of the Managing Director and any Deputy Managing Director."

- By-law 17.2

(a) Delete By-law 17.2.

(b) In By-law 17.3, delete "or 17.2".

(c) Re-number By-law 17.3 as 17.2.

- By-law 18.1(a)

Delete the existing By-law 18.1(a) and substitute:

"(a) he is not a director, principal, auditor, employee or agent of any firm, person or corporation (or related corporation of that corporation), other than a corporation which is a Subsidiary, which carries on the business of life insurance, banking, merchant banking, professional superannuation management for external clients or professional funds management for external clients provided that he shall nevertheless be qualified if the Directors so determine notwithstanding his holding any such office."

- By-law 19.1

(a) In paragraph (c) after "permission", insert "or".

(b) Delete paragraph (d).

(c) Re-number paragraph (c) as paragraph (d).

- By-law 19.2

Delete the third sentence of By-law 19.2.

- By-law 19.3

Delete the existing By-law 19.3 and substitute:

"19.3 Selection of Directors to retire

(a) Subject to By-laws 19.2 and 20.2 the Directors to retire shall be those who have been longest in office since they were last elected. When 2 or more Directors last elected or re-elected on the same day are required to retire in accordance with By-law 19.2, those to retire shall (unless they agree otherwise) be decided by the Directors.

(b) The Directors to retire shall be determined not later than 1 December in the year preceding the relevant election of Directors."

- By-law 19.5

Delete By-law 19.5.

- By-law 21.2

After "preceding year", insert "(but not later than 4 pm Sydney time on the last business day in Sydney of that month)".

- By-law 21.2(a)

Delete paragraph (v) and substitute:

"(v) a statement that he does not hold any office described in By-law 18.1(a) or the Directors have determined that he is qualified notwithstanding that he holds any such office."

- By-law 21.3

(a) In paragraph (a), delete "and By-law 17.2 has been complied with".

(b) In paragraph (b), delete the words "and there is a

qualified candidate who must be elected to comply with By-law 17.2, the Chairman shall declare him elected" and the words "only in respect of other candidates."

- By-law 22.3

Delete the existing By-law 22.3 and substitute:

"22.3 Room of voting paper

(a) A voting paper shall be in or to the effect of the following form or in such other form as the Directors from time to time determine:

"Australian Mutual Provident Society

Voting Paper

For the election of (number).....Directors

Latest date for lodgement for voting paper

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Reluctant patients risk dying of cancer

## Home rescue schemes fail to halt any repossessions

BY RACHEL KELLY, PROPERTY CORRESPONDENT

NOT one family has been saved from repossession by the mortgage rescue schemes announced by Norman Lamont in December, according to the Council of Mortgage Lenders. The Chancellor claimed that the schemes would prevent 40,000 repossessions in 1992.

Moreover, figures from the Lord Chancellor's department show that the level of court applications for evictions is almost the same as in 1991, the record year for repossessions.

Lenders started 13,781 actions in county courts last month, compared with 13,897 in February last year. In January there were 14,223 actions entered, just down on the 14,271 for the corresponding month last year.

Not all repossession actions lead to repossessions, but the court statistics are seen as a reliable guide to the eventual level of repossessions.

Mortgage rescue schemes are mainly mortgage-to-rent schemes involving lenders and housing associations. Under the schemes building societies offer reduced rate loans to housing associations to buy properties from borrowers in arrears. But the Council of Mortgage Lenders confirms that three months on, not a single scheme has been completed.

A spokeswoman said: "The reason is that the mortgage-to-rent schemes are very complicated. Even a normal property transaction takes two months. It is not unreasonable that these schemes should take time."

Delays were caused by difficulties over deciding who should be rescued; the need, for independent legal advice for all parties and independent valuations; and the number of parties involved, the council spokeswoman

added. The Nationwide, the country's second biggest building society and the first to announce a mortgage rescue scheme, says it has five mortgage-to-rent deals in the pipeline. "Five families have said they want to take part and now the legal process is beginning," a spokesman said.

Lenders emphasised that they had schemes other than mortgage-to-rent to help borrowers who had run into trouble with their mortgages. Since the announcement of the schemes with housing associations lenders have shifted the emphasis to initiatives including debt counselling, direct payments from the social security department to lenders, and accepting reduced payments.

The Leeds is offering homeowners a capped rate mortgage at 9.99 per cent on some of their mortgage and an interest-free loan on the rest as part of its mortgage rescue scheme, for example.

"Mortgage-to-rent schemes have received all the publicity because they were new and the most imaginative schemes," the council spokeswoman said. "But lenders are doing other things too which should not be forgotten."

The council refused to put a figure on the numbers who had been saved from repossession by lenders' other initiatives. "It's very hard to predict numbers because it depends on other things like unemployment and interest rates," the spokeswoman added.

Meanwhile, the figures from the Lord Chancellor's office, are a grim reminder that however many people are rescued eventually, lenders are still applying to the courts for applications to evict.

Home, L&T section, page 10

## Burglars steal Vestey heirlooms

Burglars at the home of a member of the millionaire Vestey family have stolen heirlooms and a racing trophy.

Thieves took family silver valued at £20,000 from the Georgian mansion of Timothy Vestey, general manager of the Vestey Group, whose family's interests include the Devonshire butchers chain. The house is at Ashdon, near Saffron Walden, Essex.

The stolen items included a solid silver Thurlow Hunt racing trophy, worth £3,000, which Mr Vestey won last month. The thieves also took a Hanoverian silver table dinner service and a silver carriage clock, both bearing the Vestey crest of an antelope head with three stars underneath.

## Lawyer's fraud

William Templeton, aged 35, of Lenzie, near Glasgow, has been struck off the solicitors' roll by the Law Society of Scotland for embezzling £2,432 from clients of the law firm that employed him and seeking a mortgage by fraud after gaining a social security number by using a dead man's birth certificate.

## Generosity low

Yorkshire people, noted for parsimony, have always given a poor response to appeals for the York Minister Fund, according to the Earl of Halifax, its chairman, marking its 25th anniversary. "They do not appear to be incredibly generous," he said.

## Peer accused

The Marquess of Bristol, aged 37, appeared before magistrates at Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, yesterday accused of possessing and intending to supply heroin and cocaine with a street value of about £800. The case was adjourned for 14 days.

## Editor killed

Peter Bolt, aged 32, editor of *Motor Cycle News*, died when the Honda 900 he was riding collided with the rear of a van on the A43 in Northamptonshire, police said yesterday.

## Working mothers favour role swap

BY DAVID YOUNG

HALF of working mothers would happily swap roles with their husbands to be the main family breadwinner, according to a survey. Almost half said that they were no better at looking after children than men.

The survey, conducted by Gallup for the high street chain BHS, covered 400 working mothers in the run-up to the election and mothering Sunday. BHS and the Working Mothers' Association, which supported the survey, said: "The fact working mothers are now prepared to relinquish their traditional responsibilities as mother and homemaker suggests that the last bastion of family life as we know it is about to crumble in favour of a more truly equal society."

The survey, which forms the basis of *The Working Mums' Manifesto*, free from BHS branches, shows that there is a significant number of floating voters among working mothers, with 17 per cent still to decide which party to support.

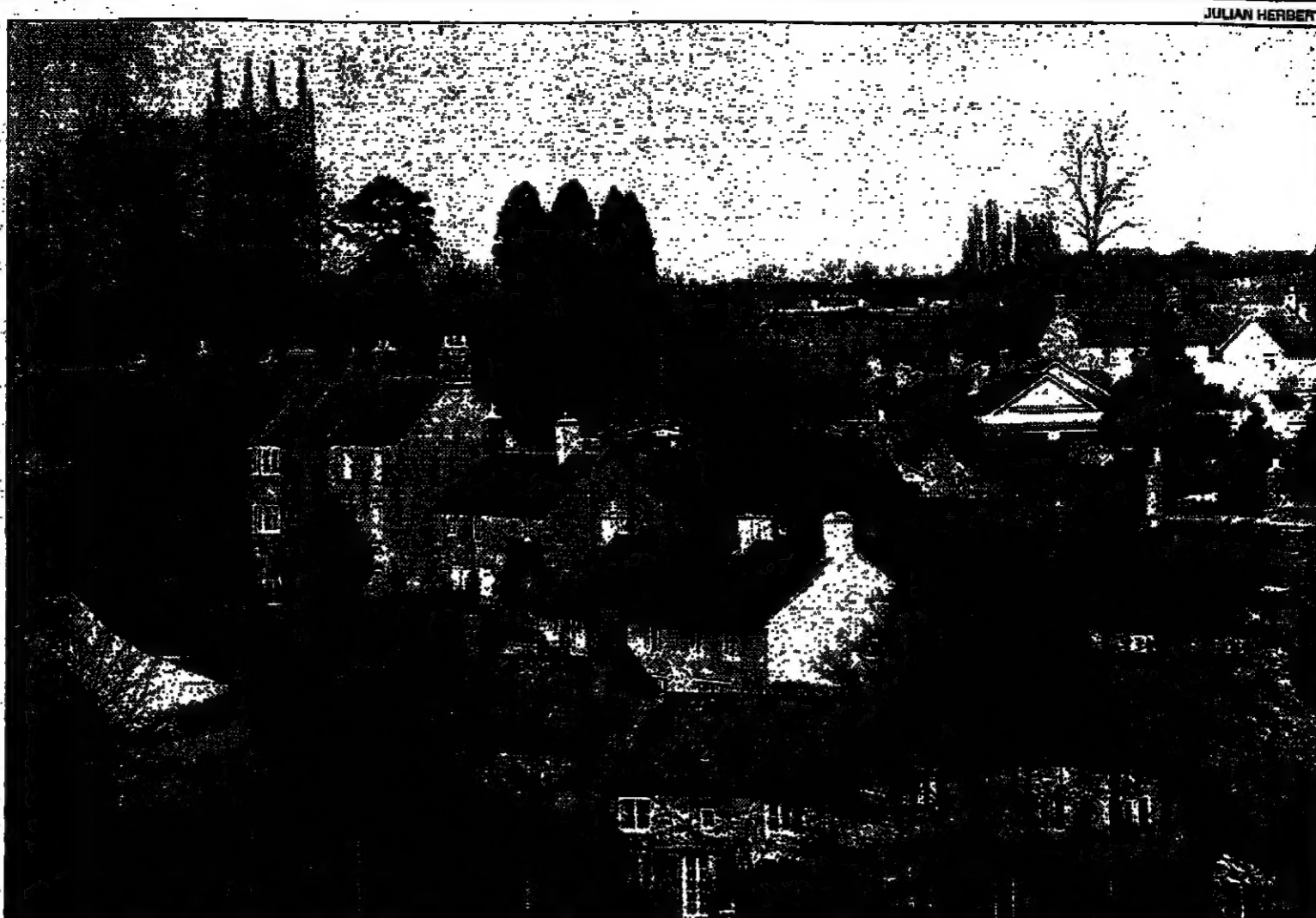
Almost all think that the government should review its attitude to working mothers. They suggest that there should be more crèches in the community, increased after-school care, subsidised child care, tax relief on child care, and improved maternity leave.

Working mothers also think that employers should provide more part-time jobs, more job-sharing and more flexible hours. They suggest that employers should consider offering them longer holidays — unpaid if necessary — to coincide with school holidays.

They feel that they need the stamina of a long-distance runner and an unforgiving approach to life. They should also have a partner who knows not only where to buy bleach but how to clean a toilet with it.

More than 90 per cent admitted that they find the price of combining work with motherhood too high. The most common complaint was a lack of time to spend on themselves.

Women, L&T section, pages 4&5



Jack's plum: the village of Mellis, Somerset, three miles from Whatley quarry, which was given to Jack Horner by Henry VIII

## Cultural sites 'at risk' from quarrying

BY JOHN YOUNG

A PUBLIC enquiry begins on April 7 into an application to extend working at Whatley quarry, near the village of Mellis, in Somerset.

The Council for the Protection of Rural England is opposing the application. It claims that the quarry, one of four within three miles of the village, is already among the largest in Europe. The local Mendip stone has long been prized by the construction industry.

The village is famous as the "plum" acquired by Little Jack Horner in the nursery rhyme. Before the Reformation it belonged to the monks of Glastonbury Abbey and after the dissolution of the monasteries was presented to Horner by Henry VIII.

The council says three other "culturally important" sites are threatened by mineral extraction, including Throop Clump, which adjoins Egdon Heath, Dorset, setting for Thomas Hardy's *The Return of the Native*.

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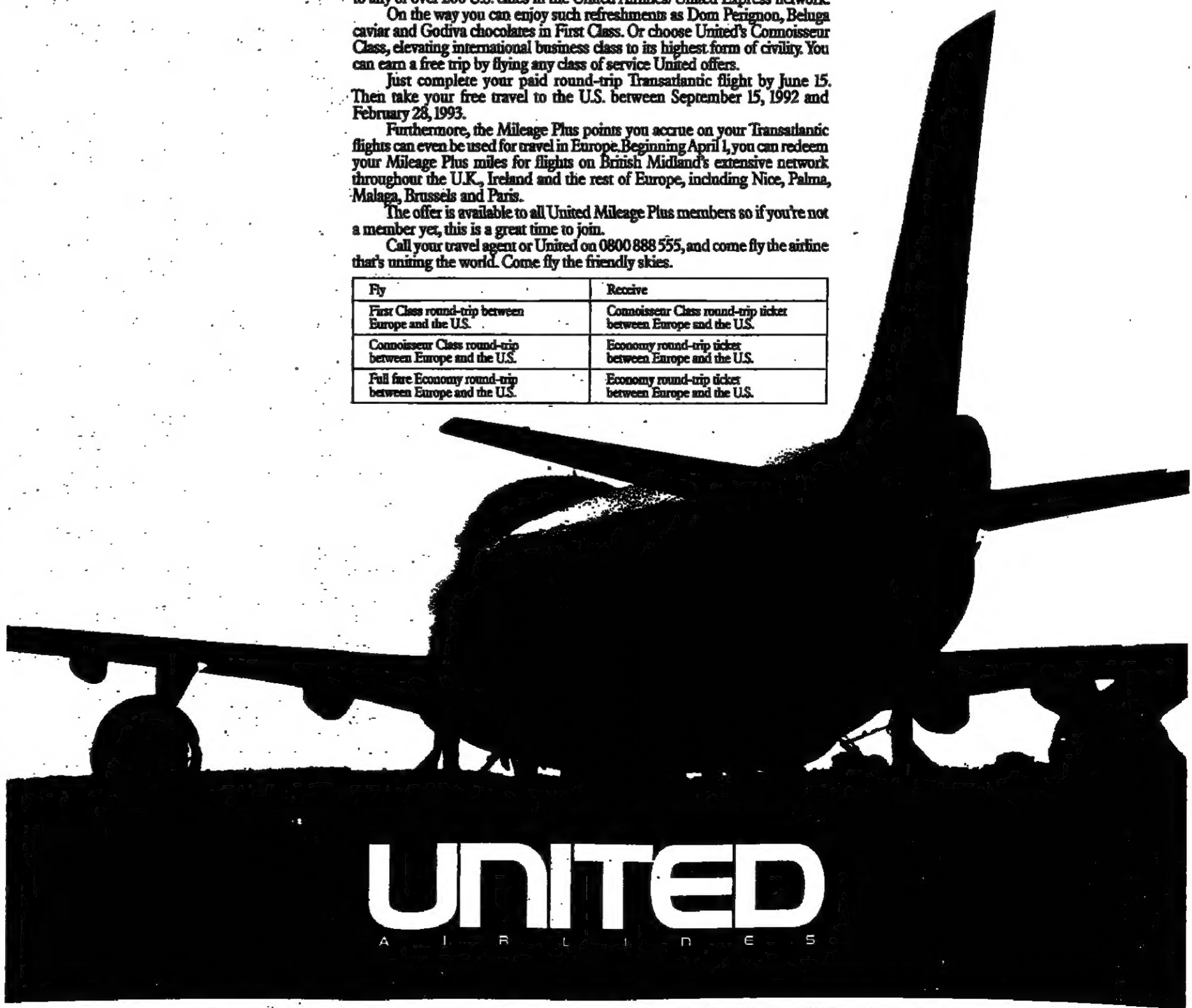
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## Poll finds that campaign has left attitudes unchanged

## Thatcher factor fails to tip balance for Tories

BY ROBIN OAKLEY  
POLITICAL EDITOR

THE much-publicised entry of Margaret Thatcher into the Conservative election campaign is unlikely to sway many floating voters, according to a new Mori poll for *The Times*.

When poll respondents were asked if her participation would help or harm the Tory cause, 28 per cent thought she would help the Conservatives, 30 per cent thought she would harm their cause and 35 per cent reckoned that she would make no difference. Attitudes tended to go with party support. Among Tories 45 per cent thought she would help and only 16 per cent that she would harm her party. Among Labour supporters the verdict was 44 to 18 the other way.

Among the much sought-after C2s, 26 per cent think she will help and 29 per cent that she will harm her party. Among potential Liberal Democrat switchers, a main Tory target, just over a quarter think

that she will help the Tories and more than a third think she will harm them.

The election campaign so far has done little to change people's perceptions on which party has the best policies. Labour leads the Conservatives 52 to 22 on health care, 43 to 19 on unemployment, 39 to 25 on education and 45 to 23 on housing. The Conservatives lead Labour 46 to 19 on defence, 36 to 22 on law and order and 35 to 25 on Europe.

The Conservatives are down three points on health compared with last week, two points on law and order and education and one point on defence.

The Liberal Democrats are proved to have been right to continue highlighting education, as they did again yesterday. Despite saying that they would actually raise taxes to boost education spending they win their best rating on education, with 15 per cent thinking they have the best policy. In campaigning hard against the "wasted vote" theory, they have been heartened to

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find their overall support increasing despite the other parties' expectations that they would be squeezed by now. When people were asked how they would vote if they thought the Liberal Democrats were likely to win in their constituency, 41 per cent opted for Paddy Ashdown's party to 29 per cent for the Conservatives and 28 per cent for Labour.

Voting intention, according to Mori, is firming up. When the election was called 69 per cent said they were certain to vote. Last week it was down to 67 per cent but this week it is up to 72 per cent. In

1987 the final turnout was 75 per cent. Mori asked several questions designed to test the impact of the Conservative campaign on Labour's taxation policies, which was the main feature of the first week's exchanges. More than half of those questioned (55 per cent) believe they will end up paying most tax under a Labour government to 23 per cent who say they would under the Tories. Two thirds of those questioned believe that government spending on public services would be highest under Labour and only 14 per cent that the Conservatives would spend more.

When people were asked what they thought the impact of Labour's tax and spending plans would be on them 35 per cent said it would be bad and 26 per cent that it would be good. The verdict among C2s was 30 per cent good, 27 per cent bad. But when people were asked what they thought the impact would be on the average family, the verdict was more favourable. Nearly four in ten (38 per cent) thought it would be good

while only 31 per cent thought it would be bad. Asked what the effect would be on the well-off, more than two thirds believed the impact would be very or fairly bad, including 83 per cent of the AEs.

There is clear public distaste for the way the election is being conducted. When people were asked whether the election should be fought by the parties putting forward their own policies and personalities or by pointing out what was wrong with others, 68 per cent called for accentuation of the positive and only 9 per cent for negative campaigning. When asked how they thought the campaign was actually being fought the result was virtually a mirror image. Just 12 per cent thought it was being fought positively and nearly two thirds (62 per cent) thought it was being fought negatively.

Mori interviewed a representative quota sample of 1109 electors in 55 constituencies face to face on March 23. Data were weighted by gender, age, class and region. © Mori/Times.

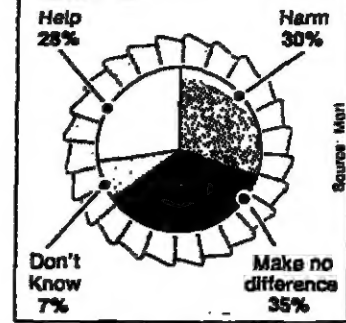
## INFLUENTIAL ISSUES

Q: How much will your vote be influenced by the parties' policies on...?  
Q: Which party has the best policy on...?

Rank	Issue	Influenced "a great deal" (%)	Best party (%)
1	Healthcare	55	Lab +30
2	Unemployment	49	Lab +24
3	Managing economy	45	C +44
4	Replacing poll tax	42	Lab +24
5	Education	41	Lab +14
6	Law and order	40	C +14
7	Taxation	38	C +5
8	Housing	38	Lab +22
9	Defence	19	C +36
10	Europe	19	C +8
11	Northern Ireland	16	C +12

## MRS THATCHER

Q: Do you think that Mrs Thatcher's entry into the campaign will help or harm the Conservatives' chances of re-election, or will it make no difference?

POLLWATCH  
by Ivor Crewe

## Sampling methods explain variations

The polls again appear to be, in John Major's words, "all over the place". Today's three polls all put Labour ahead, Mori in *The Times* by 3 percentage points, Harris for *News at Ten* by 4 points and ICM in *The Guardian* by 1 point. Yesterday's Harris *Daily Express* poll, conducted over the weekend, put the Conservatives 5 points ahead and an unpublished Audience Selection telephone poll, also done mainly over the weekend, reported a 2-point Conservative lead.

The chance outcome of sampling error? Probably. Harris's apparently contradictory polls are just about consistent with the plus or minus 3-point sampling error that needs to be applied to every standard poll. If the true state of public opinion is that the Conservatives and Labour are on 40 per cent each then a Cons 43, Lab 38 poll immediately followed by a Cons 38, Lab 42 poll are both within the error margin. It is easy to forget that the 3-point margin of error applies to only 19 out of 20 polls: the twentieth will be a "rogue". Yesterday's Harris/*Express* poll may well have been such a dud: it gave the Conservatives their largest lead and greatest support, at 43 per cent, in any poll published this year and was well out of line with recent trends.

But in *The Observer* Robert Waller of Harris offered a possible explanation for discrepancies between polls. Polls carried out entirely in one day (as Mori's was), he argues, normally have to complete their interviewing by early evening in order to produce results for the next day. To fill their quota quickly, interviewers go to busy streets rather than people's homes to find respondents. They thus tend to over-sample men who are unemployed or on short time, and to under-sample the elderly. That results in an over-estimate of Labour's vote at the expense of the Tories.

That Harris's 4-point Labour lead is based on a two-day poll might be thought to have destroyed Mr Waller's hypothesis. Analysis of all 23 post-budget polls offers some support, however. Seven were undertaken in a single day, the other 16 over two or three days. The Labour vote tends to be 1 to 2 points higher and the Conservative 1 point lower in the single polls than in the multi-day polls. The average Labour lead in the single-day polls is 2.9 points, in the multi-day polls 0.8 points.

Ivor Crewe is professor of government at the University of Essex.

## Health service

## Labour uses child actors to stir emotions

BY PHILIP WEBSTER AND JILL SHERMAN

LABOUR sought to throw health into the centre of the general election campaign last night as Neil Kinnock and Robin Cook alleged that the health service was under threat of privatisation from a Conservative government.

The Labour leadership played what it believes to be its strongest electoral card with an emotive election broadcast contrasting the cases of two little girls needing hospital treatment, one whose parents could pay £200 for an operation privately, and the other, suffering from a painful ear complaint, who had to wait nine months for a health service operation. At the beginning of a three-day health offensive, Mr Kinnock challenged John Major to a televised debate on the subject. He called on the prime minister to spell out the Tory "secret agenda" for the NHS, pointing out that the health reforms had not even been mentioned in the 1987 manifesto.

Mr Cook published what he called a "dossier" containing letters from patients who had been obliged to go private because they could not obtain the treatment they need on the health service.

The shadow health secretary said the election would decide the future direction of health — "whether that health service continues down the road marked privatisation under the Conservatives or is restored as a public service under a Labour government".

William Waldegrave, the health secretary, hit back last night, stating that the privatisation claims were "complete poppycock".

Virginia Bottomley, health minister, challenged Mr Cook in a letter over what she called "some of the most disgraceful scares with which you have been associated and which were subsequently proved unfounded".

Listing three "samples of the various misleading allegations", Mrs Bottomley wrote: "Your whole strategy has been based on the principle that the more people you can frighten the better. You will not get away with frightening people in this cynical way. Your tactics will neither be forgiven nor forgotten."

The Labour broadcast, which used children as actors, is set to a soulful song entitled *Someone Really Loves You*, and opened with the words: "The story of two girls with the same problem — one can afford private treatment, the other can't." It ended with the message: "It's their future, don't let it end in tears."

Although the girls in the film were actresses, the party said the situation was based on fact. Mr Cook told a London news conference that the broadcast was prompted by a letter from a father who explained that his daughter had been waiting 11 months for treatment for an operation for water on the ear. He was aware that the surgeon who had carried out the operation had an extensive private

practice. Labour sources denied the broadcast was exploitative and said: "We are telling a story which is relevant to the lives of us all."

Mr Kinnock said on a visit to Manchester: "At the last general election the Tories never so much as mentioned their programme for breaking up and privatising the NHS. They just got on with it once the election was out of the way. It is this record which makes it imperative that Mr Major debates his party's policies and plans openly with me now."

John Major had been on a small secret committee which drew up the reforms and the "privatisation and commercialisation" which went with it, said Mr Kinnock. "This time John Major, who is seeking his first mandate from the British people, must be open with them."

In reply, Mr Major challenged Mr Kinnock to say whether funding for the health service would be through increased borrowing or higher taxation. Today Labour will publish detailed costings of its health manifesto amid Tory charges that it cannot afford them. Labour has already pledged an extra £1 billion for the health service over the next 22 months and said that the £50 million raised from abolishing tax relief on private health insurance would be spent on cancer services.

Leading article, page 13



Enough is enough: Douglas Hurd, visiting a nursery school in Tooting Bec, south London, to support the local Conservative candidate, finds one voter of the future who has already heard too much electioneering

## Kaufman emerges as Labour's man in grey suit — occasionally shown but never seen

*Come, friendly bombs, and fall on Slough, yesterday, but Gerald Kaufman dropped in. He spent noon, in a gun-metal grey suit, hitting selected targets in the town. Earlier, he had graced a Westminster press conference.*

In between, Glenys Kinnock visited a bakery dressed head to toe in fluorescent pink of a Teddy Boy's socks. Your sketch writer's day was therefore a sandwich, two grey slices of Kaufman, with a filling of cherry-coloured Glenys between.

And the garnish? A sprinkling of grated carrot. Robin Cook unveiled another unintelligible Labour poster, in a rainstorm and a hail of abuse from the Workers' Revolutionary Party, after five policemen had removed a confused black lady. Hey-ho.

We started at 7.45am at a press conference on Labour's "computer skills initiative". Question arises why Mr Kaufman, who is Labour's foreign affairs spokesman, should have chosen this for his moment in the spotlight. The suspicion arises that, sensitive to the charge that Kaufman has been suppressed due to bad vibes, Labour must claim he has appeared somewhere, but do not wish



## CAMPAIGN SKETCH

MATTHEW PARRIS

him to appear anywhere where his presence will be noticed.

Mr Kaufman came in to a recorded fanfare of "Labour's theme", blinked, and sat down. All his colleagues had double-breasted jackets, though only Tony Blair had poked his rose through the lapel; but then Mr Blair was privately educated.

Two frightened-looking children were brought on as visual aids. I suppose for Labour's press conference on health they will bring a corpse. These youngsters, were, we were told, YTS trainees whose placements had been cancelled. They were not allowed to speak. But we could see them. Afterwards, a computer was carried on to the stage, and one of the kids established a computer link "with Gordon Brown" in Scotland.

Was it Gordon Brown? All the computer showed was a little geometric design made of asterisks and the words "Good morning, it's Mike in Glasgow."

"Good morning, it's Colum in London."

"The staying-on rate in South Korea is twice as high as Britain."

"Where's Gordon Brown?" I asked. "You can't see him," replied Mr Blair. "This isn't a television, you know. But he's with Mike."

"How do I know?" "Telephone him."

Margaret Beckett left. Earlier, she had made a little speech about the needs of our economy for skilled trainees. This was followed by Mr Blair (employment spokesman) on Labour's plans to provide these. But what could Mr Kaufman talk about, poor thing? Attempting a seamless movement from YTS to world statesmanship, he spoke of training in the EC.

"Are you happy with the comparison between yourself and Douglas Hurd?" asked a rude journalist. "I'd be delighted to have a full-scale debate with him on prime-time TV," said Mr Kaufman. All his colleagues' brows furrowed. Minutes later they took him away for a "briefing with

the foreign press corps". This, they said, was closed to the British press corps. It may be that Mr Kaufman was simply locked in a room. It was only 8.15. He was not required in Slough until 11.

So I went to observe Mrs Kinnock and Mrs Beckett watching custard rolls being made at the South London Polytechnic. I'm afraid Mrs Beckett was completely unstaged. Glenys hardly spoke, she just was, in violent power-padded pink. Like a silent movie without a stage pianist, she swanned through the catering faculty. She squirted custard dollops on to little pastry stars, she placed maraschino cherries on to cakes and she inspected mixing machines. The photographers loved it. "Mrs Kinnock, could you just smile for me."

Only once did she utter publicly: an uncontroversial remark, but made with marvellous assurance. It was as she entered the bread kitchen. "I can smell it," she said.

But I had to go, haunted by the thought that they were imprisoning Mr Kaufman and forcing him to make the shortest public appearance, claiming that he is all right. I reached the Labour HQ in Slough in time for his advertised

11.00 appearance. No Gerald. "That was a mistake," said the Labour candidate, Eddie Lopez, whose moustache resembles that of a rather sensitive minor bandito. "He's not due until 12.00."

At 12.00 I found him. They had taken him to a warehouse and office on a small industrial estate on the fringes of Slough, to meet "ten small business people who will be voting Labour". I counted seven, but two were of normal height. He was there for a quarter of an hour. The venue had been chosen to repel the press — successfully.

After Slough, and lunch, he was being taken to Heathrow and flown to his constituency in Manchester. "He will be canvassing," his assistant told me. Any speeches tonight? "He will be canvassing tonight." Tomorrow? "He will be canvassing."

The taxi driver taking me back to Slough station was Asian. "I do not think many people in Slough will be seeing him today," he said. "They have not taken him to the High Street." He thought Mr Kaufman might put voters off. "They really shouldn't be putting him on television," he said. "I think it's something to do with the head."

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## Liberal Democrats

# Minimum wage is rejected by Ashdown

BY SHEILA GUNN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

PADDY Ashdown said yesterday that he would not support the introduction of a minimum wage by a Labour government because of its likely effect on unemployment. Adding another condition to the Liberal Democrats' terms in a hung parliament he said: "It would add an extra rigidity at such a time that we need more flexibility in the labour market."

He also sought to justify the flow of new terms and conditions for his party's support. He told journalists in Yeovil: "If there is going to be such an outcome, the public have a right to know what our negotiating stance is going to be and how we will use our influence." There was scope for "give and take on the list of conditions, except for PR, he said.

The party will launch an initiative on the environment this week before the Ashdown campaign team embarks on a day trip to northern France on Sunday to highlight its European credentials.

Tomorrow Mr Ashdown will explain to Scottish voters why he is prepared to bring down a Labour government committed to setting up a Scottish parliament. With the agreement of his Scottish colleagues, he will make clear that the party would sink a Labour government, and the chance of a Scottish assembly, unless PR for Westminster was introduced, and even though that might bring in a Tory government opposed to devolution.

Sensitivity within the party's ranks about the high risk strategy goes some way to explain why Mr Ashdown is making only a fleeting visit north of the border this week, although ten of the party's 22 MPs in the last parliament represented Scottish seats.

The official explanation is the "safety" of the seats and the lack of winnable constituencies, with the exception of Edinburgh West. However, Nicol Stephen faces a tough fight to hold on to Kincardine and Deeside, which he took

from the Tories in a by-election, and seats such as North East Fife, held by Menzies Campbell, are exceedingly vulnerable.

The Scottish question adds to the illusion of Mr Ashdown juggling with his terms for supporting John Major or Neil Kinnock in government while the campaign rages about him.

The precondition, what he calls the key that turns the lock, is PR for Westminster. A royal commission on electoral and constitutional reform; enhanced status for Professor Raymond Plant's committee on PR, or PR for other assemblies, would not be enough to open that door to negotiation, he has said in recent weeks.

Open to debate, however, are the policies "on the table" as he puts it, and also who else is sitting there with him.

His list of declared terms so far during the campaign are: PR for the House of Commons; massive investment in education; a long term rather than short term economic programme; no minimum wage; a change in Labour's tax plans for a 49 per cent rate on those earning more than £27,000 a year and abolition of the Tories' 20p lower tax band.

He also wants a central independent bank; no Ulster Unionist support for a Tory government; at least one seat at the Cabinet table; a "sensible" defence policy; and a constructive approach to Europe.

There appears to be room for manoeuvre on most of these priorities, including his commitment to a big investment in education. Labour is devoted to pre-school education, school repairs and increasing student numbers.

Mr Ashdown wants to raise the basic rate of income tax by 1p to 26p in the pound to pay for that investment, but has hedged that commitment by making clear that he would look at the resources available to an incoming government.

## Labour clarifies policy pledges

LABOUR yesterday swiftly backtracked from a pledge in its manufacturing manifesto that anyone unemployed would be guaranteed the offer of job experience or training within six months of losing their job. Tony Blair, the shadow employment secretary, made plain at the party's daily London press conference that the commitment remained an objective rather than a guarantee.

The commitment was one of two policy areas that Labour was obliged to clarify yesterday. John Smith, the shadow chancellor, denied that Labour had plans to introduce mortgage rationing after remarks by Neil Kinnock on Monday.

Mr Kinnock had said: "People could rather get a mortgage that they can afford after waiting a month or two longer because credit controls are operating than getting a mortgage they cannot afford on request." Mr Smith said the suggestion of mortgage queues was a fantasy.

Mr Blair acted to clear up confusion over the jobs issue by emphasising that the position was as set out in Labour's official manifesto, published last week. That said: "Our aim is to ensure that anyone unemployed for more than six months has a choice of job experience or training."

The manufacturing manifesto, published by Neil Kinnock and Gordon Brown in Birmingham on Monday, went much further. It said: "We will end long-term unemployment. By reforming the employment service we will prevent long-term unemployment happening — rather than just trying to cure it." Then it added: "We will ensure that each unemployed person is guaranteed the offer of a job or training place within 12 months. During the lifetime of a parliament we will reduce this to six months."

Mr Blair was asked yesterday if the aim had been hardened into a promise.

### Philip Webster and Jill Sherman report on Labour's stance over training and credit control

He replied that the position was set out in the manifesto last week. This had made clear it was the "objective" over the lifetime of a parliament to ensure that the long-term unemployed got access to decent training and job experience. "That remains our commitment. We believe it is entirely feasible," he said.

Michael Howard, the employment secretary, said in a letter to Mr Blair: "If this guarantee is only an objective, you must make an apology for deliberately misleading the public and pulp all the copies of your manufacturing manifesto, which will be reduced to nothing more than just another work of fiction."

In setting out a blueprint for industry for the 1990s to sustain recovery in the long term yesterday, Mr Kinnock described to industrialists in Manchester his philosophy for boosting British enterprise by a combination of tough monetary and supply-side policies. He made clear that a Labour government would be enabling rather than interventionist, applying credit management only to avoid excessive interest rates.

He clearly blamed financial deregulation in the 1980s, which had led to a credit boom, for many of the economic problems that Britain was now facing. Elaborating on his plans for credit management, he said: "We need new measures of credit management to prevent the excesses of a debt-financed boom followed by the high interest rates and credit-crunch misery which has characterised the last decade."



Media message: Glenys Kinnock getting an earful of advice from her daughter Rachel when she visited the Hounslow borough college where Miss Kinnock is studying for a diploma in media skills. The Labour leader's wife campaigned for Ann Keen, the party candidate

## Students give vote to apathy

BY ALISON ROBERTS

STUDENTS are apathetic floating voters, according to four opinion polls in the universities of Bristol, Cambridge, Durham and Edinburgh. Over a quarter of those questioned had not decided how to vote or were not intending to vote.

Cambridge students were the most politically committed, giving Labour a clear majority, at 36 per cent, with the Conservatives second on 23 per cent. The Liberal Democrats were on 18 per cent, with 18 per cent undecided or not intending to vote.

The poll was conducted among 1,255 students from every university site by *Varsity*, the university newspaper. The Bristol poll, by the student paper *Epigram*, with a sample of 700, gave the Tories a ten-point lead over Labour and a nine-point lead over the Lib Dems. But second, just a point behind the Tories were the "Don't knows", on 28 per cent.

The Edinburgh poll gave Labour a small lead over the "Don't knows". In Durham, the "Undecideds" came top, with the Tories second.

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# Unionists list their aims as hung parliament speculation mounts



Molyneux: has ruled out a formal coalition

The Ulster Unionist party, at the centre of speculation that it may become involved in supporting the next government, launched its manifesto yesterday, beginning with a long list of requirements on the constitutional question.

The party had nine MPs, all of whom are expected to be re-elected. In any post-election bartering it is expected to act with Ian Paisley's Democratic Unionist party, which has three safe seats.

James Molyneux, the UUP leader, has ruled out a formal coalition with one of the main parties at Westminster but has indicated that his party has made its objectives known and will decide whether to back a minority government "issue by issue".

The manifesto accords pride of place to Mr Molyneux's determination that Ulster will benefit from the debate on Scottish devolution and independence. He believes this is Northern Ireland's

## The Ulster Unionist party's election manifesto gives pride of place to the constitutional question, Edward Gorman writes

best opportunity to move away from the search for complex power-sharing structures in Belfast and once again to come into line with the rest of the kingdom.

He believes that the Scottish debate will lead to a measure of limited administrative devolution for all regions of the United Kingdom regardless of the political complexion of the next government. The manifesto warns a future prime minister: "We cannot accept as stable any system of governance which could not equally be applied to any other regional entity within the UK."

Mr Molyneux said yesterday that this almost Powellite form of integration would prove acceptable to the nationalist SDLP and the government of the republic. "I

would hope that the Irish government would see that there is nothing objectionable about Northern Ireland being governed in the same way as Scotland because both have a separatist minority as Wales does. There should be a way of giving them [the minorities] a place in the sun in the running of their own particular patch while still recognising the integrity of the UK and the sovereignty of Parliament."

A clearly defined union is also called for. The manifesto says that it must be "manifestly substantiated" that citizens of Northern Ireland are citizens of the UK with all the rights and obligations accorded to subjects in the three other nations. The document calls

on the government to launch a campaign to persuade the Irish Republic to abandon articles 2 and 3 of its constitution, which claim sovereignty over Northern Ireland, and calls for a bill of rights to apply throughout the UK.

Surprisingly low down the list comes the perennial problem of the Anglo-Irish agreement. "Ulster Unionists require the removal of the present discredited Anglo-Irish agreement, which has negated progress towards peace and stability, and its replacement by a wider British-Irish agreement which would take the totality of relationships in these islands into account," the document says.

Improvement of procedures at Westminster for the government of the province, including the end of orders in council and the establishment of a select committee, are also called for.

On security, the document does not mention explicitly the party's

preference for internment, advocated unceasingly by Ken Maginnis, the security spokesman, but says its MPs will "press the next government to define a proper strategy for dismantling the senior command and control structures of paramilitary groupings".

Jobs will also be on the agenda in a province where unemployment averages 14 per cent, as well as measures to alleviate the pressures on the business community caused by bombings.

Mr Molyneux and his colleagues are playing a low-key game. They know that if they are seen to be asking for too much their chances of being involved after the election will diminish. Some of them are willing to admit that many of the items on their list of requirements may well be unattainable. They also believe, however, that an opportunity to make gains which, in UK terms might seem modest, but to them would

be of great significance could be at hand.

Lib Dem objection: Paddy Ashdown yesterday ruled out Liberal Democrat support for a minority Tory government: if it depended on Ulster Unionist MPs (Sheila Gunn writes).

In a rare display of anger, the Liberal Democrat leader said he found it impossible to accept that a man such as John Major could contemplate putting the peace of Northern Ireland at risk in exchange for holding on to power.

When questioned, he also dismissed the prospect of sitting around the same table as the Ulster Unionist MPs under a minority Tory government. "I can see no way I could be any part of any government that depended on Ulster Unionist votes," he said. Liberal Democrat MPs in the next parliament would also unquestionably vote against a government that looked to the Unionists to retain power.

## SNP challenge

# Farmers hold key to humiliation of Lang

By KERRY GILL

MATT Brown sketched out a campaign map of Galloway and Upper Nithsdale showing the strengths and weaknesses of the Tories and the Scottish National Party as if he were General Patton preparing a tank assault. Only Mr Brown might be a little more confident.

Galloway and Upper Nithsdale must be one of the most attractive constituencies in Britain, stretching from the mellow coasts of Solway Firth, up through the forest of Glentworth, over the wild landscape on which Buchanan's Richard Hannay was hunted in *The Thirty-Nine Steps*, to the old mining villages of Sanquhar and Kirkcubbin.

One could easily believe this was the safest Tory seat in Scotland. But the Scottish Conservatives could suffer their most humiliating defeat here. The nationalists have chosen Mr Brown to fight Ian Lang, Scottish secretary, whom they deride as "Scotland's colonial governor".

Reading the runes in such a diverse constituency, which ranges from the rich Tory heartlands of Stewartry to the

unemployment wastes of Upper Nithsdale, was once fraught with pitfalls. Galloway was held by the nationalists during the late Seventies but fell to Mr Lang in 1979. Five years ago he held on to this largely farming constituency by 3,673 votes in spite of a rejuvenated SNP. Next month those same farmers will hold the key to Mr Lang's future as Scottish secretary and things are not looking good. The augurs predict a nationalist victory.

The periodical *Big Farm Weekly* articulated this month the growing disenchantment of local farmers with the Tories in general and Mr Lang in particular.

Mr Brown, campaigning in the village of Glenluce last night, was confident of victory. According to polls, official and private, the SNP has more than achieved the necessary swing, 4.5 per cent, to oust Mr Lang. Mr Brown, a west coast lawyer, attacked what he called Mr Lang's lack of genuine interest in his constituents.

The Tories point to the number of new small busi-

nesses created in Galloway and Upper Nithsdale, to the recent upgrading of the A75 trunk route to Stranraer and by-passes that will increase trade with Northern Ireland and save Stranraer from further job losses. Ian Mackie, the Tory agent, is confident that if the Conservative voters are encouraged to the poll stations on April 9, Mr Lang will see off the SNP.

Nobody doubts that it will be a two-horse race. Third place is likely to go to John McKerchar, the Liberal Democrat, who wants a long-term promotion of Galloway. John Dowson, Labour's man, arrived late, having replaced a candidate who dropped out because of pressure of work. Mr Dowson is concentrating on the benefits that Labour could bring to the areas of poor employment such as Upper Nithsdale and Newton Stewart. Unemployment, however, has fallen within the constituency as a whole.

1987 general election results: L.B. Lang (Cons) 16,592; S.F. Norris (SNP) 12,919; J. McKerchar (Lib) 6,001; J. Gray (Lab) 5,298; D. Kenny (Ref) 230.



Roles reversed? Matt Brown, SNP candidate at Galloway and Upper Nithsdale, gets a kiss from a constituent's dog and perhaps a vote from its owner. Mr Brown is fighting the Scottish secretary Ian Lang to get back a seat that the nationalists lost to the Tories in 1979

## Major heads north

# Flair for the one-liner sharpens campaign act

By NICHOLAS WOOD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

JOHN Major was sharpening up his act yesterday as he headed north in his quest for the C2 vote, which supposedly holds the key to the outcome of the election.

He warmed up on the ABCs at his morning press conference in London, displaying a hitherto unrecognised talent for the one-liner. Had the government made any significant mistakes over the past five years, one questioner asked. "The politician who didn't make mistakes is never a politician and the politician who admitted them to you wouldn't be a politician," the prime minister replied.

Not bad for the dawn patrol. But there was better to come. Another ABC wanted to know if collectively ditching Mrs Thatcher had made for better relations with Jacques Delors. Mr Major instantly summoned up a chorus of praise for his predecessor. "We collectively knew very well how much this country has owed Margaret Thatcher for the last 12 years. When history looks back on the

years she was prime minister, I believe history will look back very kindly. They were years of very great achievement."

Mr Major then risked another walkabout, this time in a small market town in Cleveland near the North Yorkshire boundary. Tim Devlin is battling to hold on to his narrow 774 majority in Stockton South, and to the astonishment of the shoppers in Yarm, the prime minister just happened to drop by to help.

Mr Major's encounter with the public in Bolton last week ended in a disturbance. This time the only skinhead in sight wanted Mr Major's autograph — on his helmet — and the only ugly scenes were among the media battling to keep pace with the prime minister.

But for all the jollity, the C2 vote was still proving elusive. Sean Butler, aged 28, explained that in spite of Mr Major's civility he would not be voting for him. Mr Butler has been working on the flood

defences on the Tees, which surrounds the town, but will be out of his £250-a-week job on Friday.

His colleague, David Bradshaw, aged 30, also faced losing his job, but his comments suggested that Mr Major's warning in Sheffield the previous night about the spectre of unrestrained union power under a Kinnock government was hitting home. Mr Bradshaw pledged his support for the Tories, saying: "Kinnock's going back to the old ways. He's bringing back stagecoaches."

A beaming Mr Major clearly enjoyed his stroll in the spring sunshine of Yarm with its quaint tea shops, cobble stones and ancient town hall. "It's glorious, isn't it? What a place to contest in the election." The new flair for the one-liner was never too far from the surface. As office workers crowded at their windows, one young woman invited Mr Major up for a cup of coffee. "That's the best offer I've had in a long time," he said.

## Scottish Tories

# Thatcher gets more daffodils

By PAUL WILKINSON

SCOTLAND'S beleaguered Tories took a calculated risk yesterday and invited Margaret Thatcher on a whistle-stop tour of three Conservative marginal seats.

Mrs Thatcher, who, while prime minister, was probably the member of the Tory leadership most disliked by Scots, opened her visit by saying that she had come north "because I care".

There were no walkabouts during her nine-hour tour of the seats of Edinburgh West, Tayside North and Stirling. There were, however, daffodils. Not over her head, as happened when she met the public in Stockport on Monday, but in a posy from a party worker in Edinburgh, where the tour began.

"Mrs Thatcher's popularity has changed in Scotland since she went from power," said Brian Townsend, assistant to Bill Walker, who is defending a 5,000 majority in Tayside North against a strong Scottish National Party candidate. "Attitudes have softened and people are beginning to understand what she was talking about. Anyway, it's a great boost for party morale to see her here."

Mrs Thatcher began with a hunch given in Edinburgh by Lord James Douglas-Hamilton, defending a 1,234 majority in Edinburgh West. The hotel chosen was away from public gaze, on a main road leading to the Forth Bridge. The police kept the few sightseers well away, and it was only campaign workers who raised a straggling cheer as Mrs Thatcher's motorcade drew up.

Asked by reporters about Scottish independence, Mrs Thatcher said: "It's very, very easy to talk about these things, but when you actually come to consider it, you don't want to destroy the work of centuries in a moment."

In the Tayside market town of Blairgowrie, where Mrs Thatcher had a meeting with Tory workers, several hundred onlookers gave her a rousing cheer.

## Doubters shunted into sidings

MARGARET Thatcher rode serenely down half a mile of privatised railway yesterday on the footplate of a steam engine. As journalists hunted for political metaphors near Trevor Howard and Celia Johnson held their *Brief Encounter*, the manager of the Steam Town Railway Centre at Carnforth, Lancashire, assured them there were no buffers to hit, no possibility of running out of steam and no end of the line.

"But you came in backwards, Mrs Thatcher — does that mean you are not for turning?" one reporter enquired as the former prime minister's train returned to its platform. "What a good idea, what a good thought," she said.

Mrs Thatcher was campaigning in support of Mark

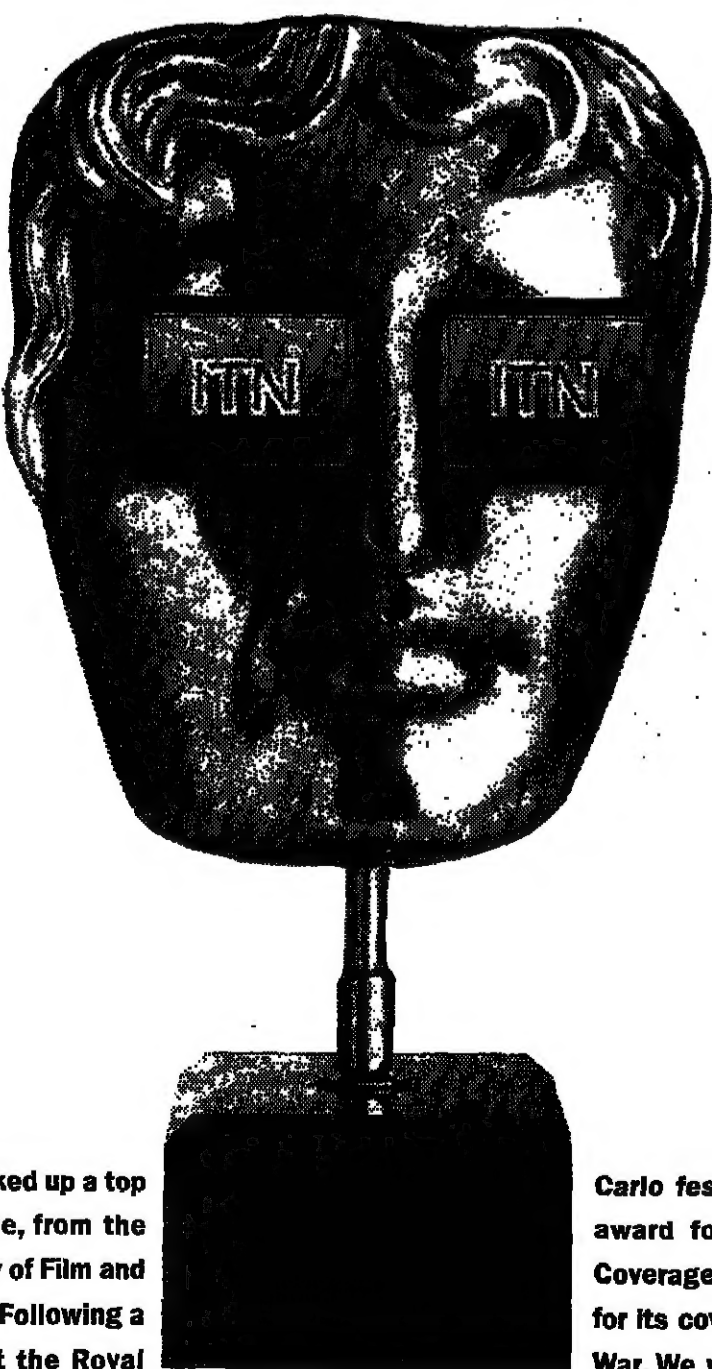
Margaret Thatcher's trip on a steam train footplate left her press pursuers out of puff. Ronald Faux writes

Lennor-Boyd, Tory candidate for Morecambe and Lunesdale, and she waxed lyrical about steam engines. "My generation understands the steam engine and the power of the thing and the experience of an express when it goes through a station without stopping," she enthused. Many were made in her home town of Grantham, and she recalled watching them being built. "Was she a driver? Yes, but not of trains. Some would say you are driving the campaign? I would not say I am driving. I am helping and I

hope very effectively," Mrs Thatcher replied. Why should people in Carnforth vote Tory? a local reporter flung in, and it was hard to tell whether steam was rising from Mrs Thatcher or the Stanier BR 4-6-0 locomotive that was snorting behind her. Why? Because of everything the government had done for Britain in raising the standards of living of all the people, Mrs Thatcher said.

Labour, she added, had an abysmal record. "People got into decline and they got used to decline and the trade unions ran the country with terrible strikes. That was their record in practice and that is how you should judge their words now. We released the enterprise of these remarkable people. I hope the message gets home."

## 'AND THE WINNER IS'



ITN has just picked up a top award. This time, from the British Academy of Film and Television Arts. Following a clean sweep at the Royal

Television Society News Awards, and major wins in both the New York and Monte

Carlo festivals, the BAFTA award for Best Actuality Coverage was given to ITN for its coverage of the Gulf

War. We would just like to

say a big thank you to everyone who worked so hard to make it all possible.

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Party press conferences

# 'Missing' Kaufman returns to the hustings limelight

By Robin Oakley, Political Editor

PARTIES are sensitive things at election times. Yesterday, *The Times* drew attention to the mysterious absence of Gerald Kaufman, the shadow foreign secretary, from Labour platforms. But when the press trooped in for Labour's morning press conference on training and employment to and behold there was Mr Kaufman, blinking in the unexpected limelight and primed up with some instantly forgettable statistics on training in Spain and Portugal. We have saved him for the nation.

The Tories, firm in their belief that Mr Kaufman nags voters their way every time his exhorting tongue is

loosed upon them, are secretly praying for a good foreign affairs crisis, not only to raise Mr Kaufman's profile but also to do the same for Douglas Hurd, whose ministerial authority is seen as a potential vote-winner. Yesterday, they wheeled him on anyway, making foreign affairs their theme of the day.

Whether it was altogether wise, given the present state of the Tory campaign, to pose Mr Major in front of a back wall slogan ending "...in a troubled world" Saatchi and Saatchi's well paid professionals might care to contemplate. But Mr Hurd and Mr Major strutted their stuff, reminding us all of the battles they had fought through the Kuwait desert and across the dinner tables of Maastricht.

Mr Hurd said: "We have won respect for our coherence, consistency and steadfastness. The world is in flux, uncertain and dangerous. The international agenda has rarely been busier. Our interests are at stake. We need a pilot with experience and weight to chart our course at this critical time."

Labour, he said, was led by people who had based their political rise on antipathy to Europe. But having once seen nothing right with the Community, they now saw nothing wrong. "They seem to have moved from total opposition to total subservience."

After his shtun on tax the previous day, the prime minister, a fast learner at the election game, was fluent and in command. Asked what mistakes he had made in politics, he swiftly declined the invitation to breast-beat, saying: "The politician who didn't make mistakes was never a politician and the politician who admitted them wouldn't be a politician either."

He is, however, picking up one Kinnockian habit. His reply to a question whether he was after the Euro-sceptic vote took three minutes twenty seconds.

Mr Major challenged Mr Kinnock over credit controls, saying that Labour was "reverting to type" by proposing them. "It is the old answer: form a queue, wait, let the government decide what you can have, when you can have it and how much you can have. We need a clear and concise statement of what it means and who it will affect," he said. He wanted an answer too to the letter he had sent to Neil Kinnock asking if he challenged any item in the Tories £38 billion costing of

Labour's programme. This election is full of unrequited correspondents. Over at Labour's headquarters, John Smith complained that he was still waiting for Mr Major's answer to his letter challenging the prime minister's claim that the tax burden had remained broadly flat under the Tories.

Labour concentrated on its programme for boosting employment with better training. Once again it was the solidity of Mr Smith on view, alongside the crisp diction of Margaret Beckett, arching her eyebrows at any impudent question like a duchess who has spotted a crust on the cucumber sandwiches.

Britain's main competitors had discovered the need for training a long time ago, she said, and had profited from it. "Our commitment to training is clear and unequivocal. We believe that government must form a partnership with industry, to encourage and provide a suitable framework for which industry has been calling."

As usual it was slick, professional and ruthlessly stage managed. Labour was not risking any problems like those suffered the day before by Mr Major. Any journalist who tried a supplementary was verbally karate-chopped by Dr Jack Cunningham, the campaign director.

At the Liberal Democrat press conference Paddy Ashdown once again highlighted education. Mr Ashdown said "anyone who says they will never raise taxes is either a fool or a fiddler". Once again he pledged to raise taxes to pay for more education. There are advantages in playing the high moral line when nobody believes you will be in a position to add to their tax bills.

Mr Ashdown, travelling three times as much as the other party leaders, denied claims that he was getting tired and accused his opponents of a "whispering campaign" against him. He said that the idea that he was somehow a more presidential campaigner than the other two parties was ludicrous.

Questioned about stories that the Conservatives would seek to form a coalition with Ulster Unionists if the election produced a hung parliament, the Lib Dem leader said: "I can see no way that I would be part of a government that depends on Ulster Unionist votes." That might, of course, be one reason why the Tories were trying the Northern Ireland tack.

## Refuge offered by minority channels

### TV viewers risk poll coverage overdose

Last night at about 11.30 the stated electorate might have thought it was safe to turn from the weary debate about which party wants more of our tax money to the calm and cultured shores of *The Late Show* on BBC2.

Alas, this election is everywhere. Just in case the gap between the end of *Newsnight* on the same channel and the start of *Midnight Special* on Channel 4 proved, at ten minutes, to be unbearably long, *The Late Show* decided to give us a fix: a tri-party debate on arts policy after the election.

That was but the latest example of programmers finding ways to demonstrate their political virility, although *The Late Show* was mercifully devoid of opinion polls and Peter Snow graphics.

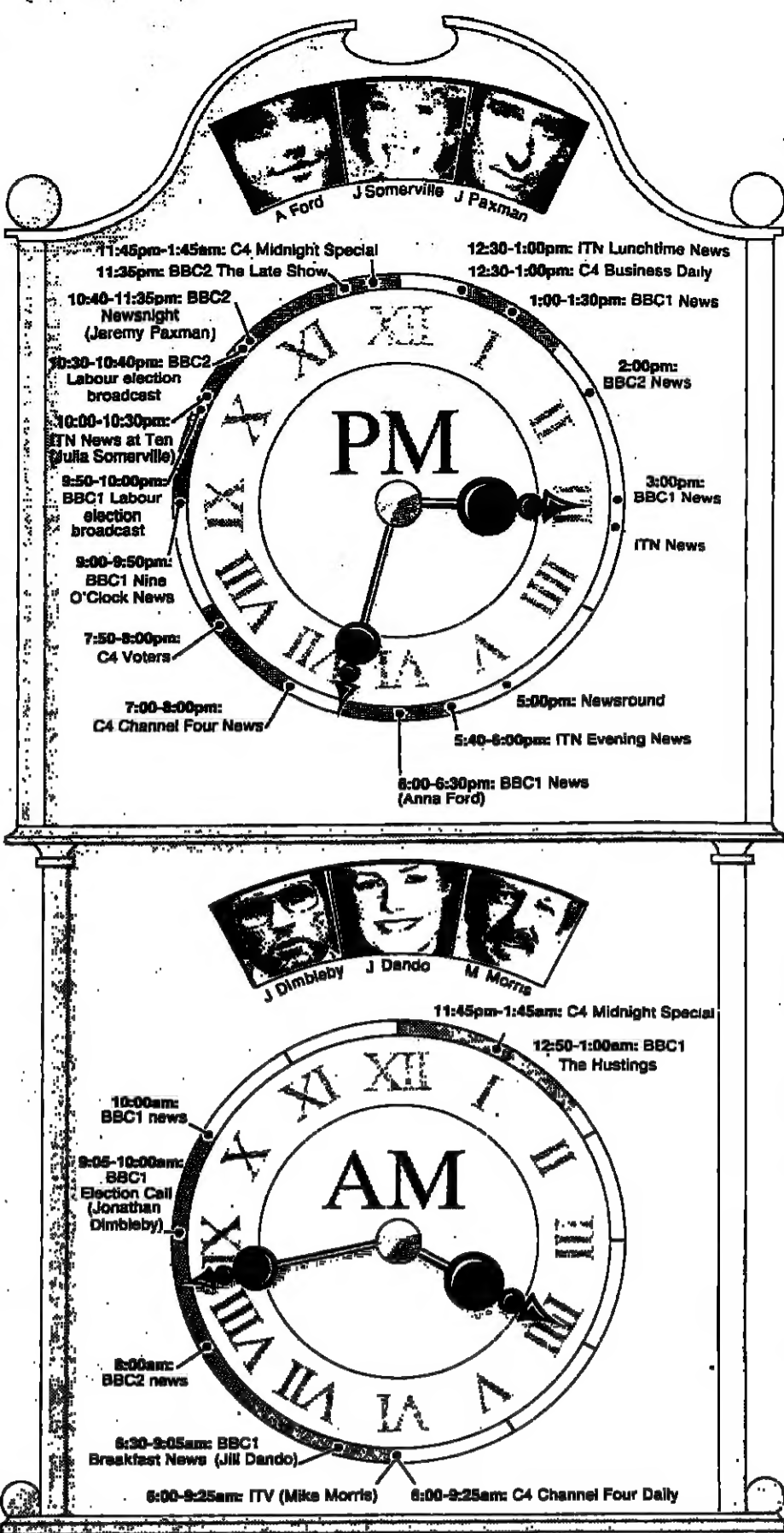
During election campaigns, the television set becomes an enemy that many people claim to be avoiding at all costs. News bulletins are assumed to be about nothing but the election, although in truth the bulletins have merely been stretched.

Television has brought on itself the preception that it is obsessed with the election by taking the decision to concentrate so much of its coverage almost exclusively on its main channels, BBC1 and ITV. Both channels could mount a strong case for shunting most of the election on to BBC2 and Channel 4, the contest being the political equivalent of football's World Cup. One match on the main channel may be justifiable, but a whole tournament surely needs to be spread around the dial so as not to alienate the medium's main audience.

Yet the minority channels have instead become a refuge for the election-weary, especially in peak hours, and there is tentative evidence that BBC2 and Channel 4 have benefited by gaining bigger audiences.

BBC1's main problem is what the election coverage may be doing to its final peak-time slot of the evening, usually at 9.30. This has been pushed back by nearly half an hour because *The Nine O'Clock News* now runs to 50 minutes, plus time for the weather forecast and regional bulletins.

Last night that was a less significant problem than on some other nights, especially Mondays when *Panorama*



## Soldiers destroy lens 'bomb'

A suspicious package blown up by army bomb disposal experts near a hotel Margaret Thatcher was due to visit on a campaign trip turned out to be a camera lens. The package was found near the Barnston Thistle hotel in Edinburgh about 30 minutes before she arrived.

The telephoto lens inside had been left in the hotel foyer by a courier.

## £10,000 placed on Tories

A man from Hong Kong has staked £10,000 on the Conservatives being the largest single party and winning the election with a clear overall majority. Bookmakers William Hill said that it was the largest bet it had taken on the election and that the man stood to win £21,000 if both forecasts came off. Meanwhile, it has cut the odds on the Conservatives to win with a clear overall majority from 5-2 to 9-4 and makes the Tories 5-6 joint favourites with Labour to become the largest single party.

## Tribunal appeal

Pat Phillips, the former agent who left her job at Winchester Conservative Association this month, is taking the local party to an industrial tribunal alleging constructive dismissal. She has been in dispute with the association after an article by John Browne, the de-selected member, appeared in an official leaflet.

## Sutch confusion

Screaming Lord Sutch, leader of the Official Monster Raving Loony Alliance party, is fighting Paddy Ashdown's seat of Yeovil. He is also standing against John Major in Huntingdon. His nomination at Yeovil adds to a confusing choice for voters as contenders also include the Monster Raving Green party represented by Patrick Ashdown.

## Party 'flawed'

The former MP Michael Meadowcroft, leader of the rebel Liberal party which would not accept merger with the SDP, said yesterday that Liberal Democrats were virtually indistinguishable from Labour or the Tories. Mr Meadowcroft, candidate at Leeds West, said that Paddy Ashdown's party "remains fatally flawed in principle and in practice".

## Czech mates

Thirty members of Czechoslovakia's Green party are in Britain helping their counterparts in the election. They are canvassing and attending press conferences. There are elections in the former communist bloc country later this year.

### Europe

## Owen tells parties to end EC 'flannel'

By Arthur Leatley

DAVID Owen accused Labour and the Tories of "flanneling" over the issue of a united states of Europe yesterday, and said he had not yet decided which way he would be voting on April 9.

His only scheduled speech of the election campaign, the former leader of the Social Democratic party said in London: "There appears to be no time to march to, no ongs to sing in this election. It is an election about percentages, fractions and C2."

The former Labour foreign secretary said that Europe should be given more prominence in the election campaign. "Any broad-based political party will have many different views within it about the European Community, but an election people are entitled to know what is the dominant view. Where does a Labour government or continuing Conservative government stand on ceding more powers to the European Commission?"

D Owen, who is not standing for re-election in his Plymouth Devonport constituency, was addressing MPs from throughout eastern and western Europe at The Future of Europe annual conference. He told them that he was among the third of voters who had yet to decide which way to vote.

He repeated his opposition to a federal Europe but accepted that "a single monetary policy might make sense" with a wholly independent bank. He pressed for an immediate enlargement, incorporating Poland, Hungary and Czechoslovakia.

Earlier, Peter Shore, a former Labour cabinet minister, told a French delegate who asked what changes in British attitudes to the EC could be expected from a Labour government: "Labour is being just as collaborationist with the EC in its most extravagant ambitions as the Conservative and Liberal Democrat parties."

Mr Shore, a long-standing opponent of a federal Europe, called for the Community to extend a "firm promise" of membership to eastern European states on condition that they retain democracy.

He said that most people in Europe did not want a federal Europe. Pressure for federalism had come from the reunification of Germany.

## Thatcher 'aberration' behind us, says Heath

By Alan Hamilton

IT IS mildly upsetting when you are the otherwise unsalable Edward Heath of Old Bexley and Sidcup, popping in at a swimming pool to press flesh where wholesale quantities of it are on offer, and a woman leaps out of the water and introduces herself as Mrs Thatcher.

But this is Valerie Thatcher, seventy-something, a lifelong voter and fan. She grips a jellied palm with her wet one, then puts on her clothes.

Mr Heath also meets a somewhat younger supporter, Natasha Kapranova, a two-year-old Russian girl in Britain for treatment of a rare skin disease, before taking a lunchtime break in a pub.

With a 16,274 majority last

time, he has every prospect of returning as Father of the House, the sole remnant of the 1950 election. Asked whether, as a former prime minister, he would want an earldom, Mr Heath says: "The House of Lords is a delightful place, but I have nothing in common. I am happy to remain in harness. I have a lot of writing to do, and speeches to make in the House."

Mr Heath said the Tories have an awful legacy to live down. "I want to make sure now that we carry through Conservative policies. It is established now that Thatcherism was an aberration. It is over, and we have to follow policies that are Conservative policies."



Child's support: Heath and Natasha Kapranova

## Tired arty-political show staggers on its boring way

Joe Joseph reviews, rather unfavourably, an unscripted but over-rehearsed performance by a stale quartet of would-be arts ministers

LIVE characters in a stage play grown stale through too many previews. Tim Renton, the arts minister, and the pretenders who covet his throne offered few novel interpretations to their play scripts when they met yesterday to open a debate on the post-election future of the arts. It was certainly not a dialogue that a drama tutor would have bothered nurturing.

Probably the most eloquent but unconvictional (an arts critic's word for vachy) contribution came from Stephen Games, an arts journalist turned arts spokesman for the Green party. He at least managed to introduce the most foreign names and phrases in his pitch to the small audience, gathered together at Queen Elizabeth Hall, London, by the National Campaign for the Arts.

He also told them to remember that great art has often blossomed in the oddest circumstances, often in the middle of anguish, catastrophe and war, although he was quick to

reassure the audience: "This does not mean that a Green government would want to launch a war to get a Guernica or a Siegfried Sassoon out of it."

Mr Games added that he and his colleagues "want to see critically interactive audiences", which sounds faintly painful, and he explained that healthy arts are produced by healthy societies, such as those that flourished in ancient Greece, although he did not make clear in exactly which sense ancient Greece might be considered healthy.

The Green arts manifesto gave Mr Renton plenty of opportunity to play with his side-of-the-mouth smirk. If you were unable to hear Mr Renton while he spoke, you might think he

was delivering a string of witty one-liners. Of course, when the microphones are switched on, you realise he isn't. He was saying how there had been "three years of record increases in arts funding" with promises of more from government funding, the Millennium Fund and from a new national lottery, although he strained for a laugh by concluding: "I believe that in the next century, Culture and Conservatives will become bywords together."

Well, that at least raised a guffaw-cum-yelp from Mark Bonham Carter, who always speaks as though he is delivering the headmaster's speech on Parents' Day. Lord Bonham-Carter, the Liberal Democrats' arts man, told the meeting that "the arts could

actually do with some money thrown at them... we spend 0.14 per cent of our GDP on the arts," compared to 0.24, on average, in Europe. He also said that the destruction of the the BBC was "in the sights of the Conservatives."

Mark Fisher, who talks animatedly, like a television news anchorman who is telling viewers that war has just broken out in Europe and who is relaying details as they come through his earpiece, disagreed with everything Mr Renton said. This is the job of a cultured Labour shadow arts minister, giving voters a tasteful black-and-white choice.

But then he confused us all by announcing that: "There are actually holes in the roof of the Tate Gallery," leaving everyone in the hall unsure whether this was a Bad Conservative Thing or the sort of inventive art that we would see more of under a Labour government.

This tired show has only a couple of more weeks to run.

## INVITATION

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9 - 10 - 11 - 12 JULY  
1992



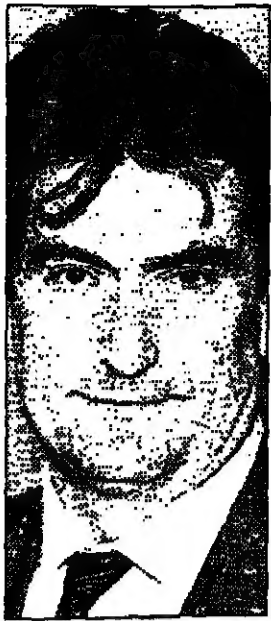
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# New leader hails end of Albania's isolation in Europe



Berisha: intellectual turned demagogue

SALI Berisha, Albania's new leader, is rich in the sort of contradictions in which the country excels: a heart surgeon in a society notorious for its primitive health care, a pro-market democrat who was a long-time Communist party member, a shy intellectual turned rousing demagogue.

With his Democratic party's sweeping victory in Sunday's elections, Albania has shaken off the legacy of isolationist communism. Dr Berisha is determined that Albania will perceive his triumph as the chance for a new start and that Europe will finally take notice of him and his country.

Turning to the European dignitaries gathered beside him at his celebration rally yesterday he inclined his head graciously. "Hello Europe," he said. "I hope we find you

The message from the top is one of self-reliance to build recovery and investment rather than handouts, Anne McElvoy writes from Tirana

well." There is a refreshing dignity about this man in a country whose traditional pride is injured by living on European Community handouts. His message is that Albania does not want a future of dependency on aid but investment to let it build its own recovery.

His success is a tribute to having bridged the gap between voters in the town and country. He is a product of both. Born in the impoverished rural region of Tropoje in the far north of the country, he studied medicine at Tirana University, performed brilliantly and specialised in car-

diology. Albania, under its brutal dictator Enver Hoxha, was a bewildering mixture of feudal backwardness and boastful communist advancement. It practised heart operations and produced nuclear physicists and water engineers of international standing while its people remained malnourished and its infrastructure underdeveloped.

The vainglorious policy did, however, produce a small class of highly educated intellectuals — a pool out of which the opposition began to form in 1990. Dr Berisha speaks fluent French and English, and was allowed the

rare privilege of leaving the country to learn new operating techniques in France in the late 1980s.

Like almost all Albanians in senior positions, he was an active party member and even performed operations on the old elite. But he seems to have kept his hands clean of any of the regime's nastier business while not endangering his own future by active dissent.

He sought fulfilment instead in academic endeavour and awoke to the possibility of change only in early 1990, inspired by the toppling of other regimes in the east. He wrote a critical article for the writers' newspaper about the lack of progress in the country and defended it when called in for a lecture by President Alija.

When Tirana's students took to the streets to demon-

strate for pluralism in December 1990, Dr Berisha and his ally, Gramoz Pashko, joined them. The movement swelled quickly. President Alija gave way and the Democratic party was formed.

Dr Berisha was its leader and carefully exploited his growing popularity. He is still equally at ease addressing disaffected city dwellers, frustrated and ashamed by their country's backwardness, or peasants in remote areas, who do not comprehend the political process and are fearful of change.

In a coalition formed in June 1991 after the general strike he gained valuable experience of government and grew in self-confidence. He also developed a ruthless streak, ousting his friend, Mr Pashko, from the barricades because he considered the economist's reform pro-

gramme too complicated to be a vote-puller.

He expertly timed his party's exit from the coalition government, quipping at the height of the civil unrest last December and thus ensuring that fresh elections would be held in a climate of disillusion and uncertainty and that the electorate would be ready for a change. Since then he has pounded the campaign trail — and in Albania it is rockier than most — relentlessly. His voice is hoarse from over-use but characteristically he does not spare it. In his victory speeches he still lays down the law with a force to which authority-hungry Albania responds.

There is an undeniable whiff of the personality cult about Dr Berisha. When his car entered Tirana's main square yesterday the crowd parted obediently leaving a

wide corridor to let him pass as they had once done for the late dictator Hoxha and Krig Zog before him.

Albania's intellectuals fear that the extent of the Democrats' triumph — they have 7 per cent, the Socialists only 22 per cent of the vote — though counting is still incomplete — may hinder the development of true democracy with the sway of one group of people simply being replaced by another.

Politics in Albania is an intensely personal business, not surprisingly in a country whose capital has only 300,000 inhabitants. The country's institutions will now be purged of the old by network and the resultant corruption from communist days. It will be a more tricky task, however, to ensure that new privileges do not replace the old ones.

## Europe security grouping widened

# French alarm Nato by pressing for new defence alliance

FROM OLLI KIVINEN IN HELSINKI AND GEORGE BROCK IN BRUSSELS

THE Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe began in Helsinki yesterday with the admission of three more members: Georgia, Croatia and Slovenia. The opening session had before it a French memorandum calling for a sweeping revision of the conference's defence and security, including a proposal designed to marginalise America's role in Europe.

European foreign ministers, meeting for the first time in the city where the original Helsinki Accords were signed in 1975, decided to admit the three new members, bringing the total number of conference signatories to 51. They also signed the so-called open skies agreement, which allows former adversaries in the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation and the defunct Warsaw Pact, as well as European neutral countries, to conduct aerial surveillance over each other's territory to discover possible cheating in arms-control agreements.

The treaty, which was negotiated in Vienna, is considered to be a significant confidence-building measure as it allows low flights and use of most modern equipment to determine exact compliance. Paavo Vayrynen, the Finnish foreign minister who opened the foreign ministers' meeting, described the treaty as "without equal in the area of verification and confidence building". The foreign ministers of Russia, Ukraine and Belarus signed the pact in place of the former Soviet Union. Georgia also began its activity in the organisation by signing the treaty.

The French memorandum, circulated to European capitals on the eve of the meeting, outlines ways in which it might develop. The most controversial suggestion is that the security conference might turn itself into a defence treaty organisation, and it has rung alarm bells in several Nato capitals. President Mitterrand and Roland Dumas, his foreign minister, in pursuit of France's ceaseless post-war quest to ease Europe away from America's military and political shadow, are quietly campaigning to turn the

grouping into a dominant body dealing with security and peace-keeping between the Atlantic and the Urals. The new French memorandum intensifies a largely secret battle over the control of Europe's future security.

According to French thinking, Nato would remain as a nuclear alliance of last resort but otherwise irrelevant to the ethnic and frontier disputes which are bubbling all over the territory of what used to be the Soviet empire. Hans van den Broek, the Dutch foreign minister, supported by Britain and by some in the American administration, argues that Nato troops could perform "military observer" or peace-keeping missions on the security conference's behalf in trouble spots. At present, the body has no means of enforcing its rulings on human rights or ethnic issues.

President Mitterrand has only made one fleeting public reference to a new European



Vayrynen: a treaty that will build confidence

security treaty. In a memo discussing "Security after Helsinki", his government proposes a new treaty covering all states in the security conference and says that it should include "a clause for solidarity and assistance in security matters".

That nebulous phrase is not a plan for fully-fledged military guarantees — such as those in the Nato treaty — by which any state would be obliged to come to the aid of another under attack. Other Nato governments believe that this is the beginning of the latest attempt to replace

Nato by creating an alternative alliance. "The memo does not say 'move over Nato' explicitly, but you can smell it between every line," one Nato diplomat said.

France and Germany, developing plans for a 25,000-member European defence force which may be joined by Spain and Belgium, are suggesting that the conference's cumbersome decision-making should be streamlined. Its decisions now require the assent of all members. Germany has floated the idea that a small "security council" along United Nations lines should deal with sensitive and fast-moving disputes. France backs the idea of the security conference making decisions by majority vote.

Yesterday the foreign ministers in Helsinki spent the morning looking at mediation attempts in Nagorno-Karabakh and the need to polish the image of the organisation battered during the Croatian war. Last night Armenia and Azerbaijan were reported to have agreed that a peace conference on their dispute over Nagorno-Karabakh should be held in Minsk.

The admission of new members was made possible by Yugoslavia's new flexibility. Earlier Belgrade had prevented the admission of Croatia and Slovenia and paralysed the security conference in the Yugoslav civil war. The leader of Yugoslavia's delegation, Vukoslav Pavlovic, said that his country had wanted to postpone their admission but gave up because of pressure from other participants.

The fourth follow-up meeting will last three months. After two days of formal statements by foreign ministers, the 51 members will try to find new structures for the Helsinki process in the post-cold war era, although many experienced diplomats are weary of the new members with their multiple problems. The conference will end with a summit meeting in Helsinki in July.

Leading article, page 13



Mountain vigil: rescue workers recovering a body from the wreckage of a Sudan Airways Boeing 707 cargo plane that crashed into the fog-shrouded Mount Imittos near

Athens airport yesterday. All seven crew were killed. The aircraft was carrying 40 tonnes of medicines and medical equipment and 33 tonnes of clothing from Amsterdam

to Sudan. It crashed shortly before landing to take on fuel. By late yesterday, the rescuers had identified five of seven mutilated and charred bodies. During the plane's

approach to the airport the pilot contacted the control tower at 7.02am to say that he was having trouble and his instruments had failed. (AFP)

## Istanbul gunmen ambush state bus

FROM ANDREW FINKEL IN ISTANBUL

GUNMEN hiding in a graveyard attacked a bus as it drove through Istanbul yesterday morning. Two people were killed and seven others were wounded in the bus, which was apparently taking employees of MIT, the Turkish state intelligence organisation, to work.

An armed faction of the radical Dev Sol group claimed responsibility for the assault. "The hand which tries to crush the Kurds will be broken," a caller told a newspaper in reference to the violence which continued sporadically yesterday in the Kurdish provinces of south-east Turkey after Turkish troops raged the town of Sirmak with tanks.

Two radical Kurd MPs, Leyla Zana and Hatip Dicle, of the Peoples' Labour party, are now on hunger strike in protest against what they describe as the "state massacre" in the region. Mehdi

Zana, Mrs Zana's husband and a popular former mayor of Diyarbakir who served 11 years in prison, was reportedly rearrested yesterday for allegedly giving support to the Kurdistan Workers' party.

Yesterday's daylight raid, in which five assailants emerged from behind a cemetery wall some 50 yards from the bus, is typical of the bravura tactics of Dev Sol. Police later freed a taxi driver who was bound hand and foot in the boot of his car, which the gunman used in his escape.

Although Dev Sol attacks are a rarity compared to the heyday of urban violence in Turkey in the 1970s, the group appeared to revive at the beginning of 1990 when it carried out several acts of urban terror in a bid, it was believed, to discourage Turkish support for the allied cause in the Gulf war.

London protest, page 3

## East teaches west a lesson in industry

FROM IAN MURRAY IN BERLIN

BRIAN Hay, a director of BICC, the British cable manufacturer, is one of the small band of British businessmen to have ventured into the economic wilderness of eastern Germany. He commutes to Berlin from Cheshire each week to oversee the transformation of the former East Germany's cable-making Kombinat into an industrial complex capable of competing for world markets.

He finds the task made easier by the fact that West Germany's cable manufacturers have generally been rude about Ossi (east German) since unification. Fed up with being called lazy and stupid, "Ossi" workers want to prove they are at least as good as Wessie, whom they regard as self-satisfied and arrogant. The result is they are motivated to out-produce west German factories, even though they earn only 70 per cent of western wages.

Treuhand, the government

agency set up to privatise east German industry, is finding that Ossi workers are putting West workers to shame. Daimler-Benz has reported that the truck plant set up last year in Ludwigsfelde, south of Berlin, is already the most efficient of any of the company runs worldwide.

With one in three Ossis out of work, those employed are showing unexpected management flair and determination to save their companies from closure. Shipyard workers in Mecklenburg, western Pomerania, have just forced the state's prime minister to resign because he failed to give them adequate support.

In the town of Brandenburg, the women at the Branka yarn mills have chosen a dynamic management from among their own number, cut the workforce from 750 to 140, and gone in search of new markets from Iran to America. They have been angered because west German companies, happy to import their wool when it was subsidised under communism, now refuse to pay the market price they must charge to survive.

But the Ossi textile industry has little hope of competing with cheap-labour mills in Turkey and South-East Asia. Treuhand is searching vainly for someone to buy Branka and save its determined women from the dole queue. Even companies with potential, like Kabelwerk Oberspre, just taken over by BICC, have had to accept large-scale layoffs as the price of survival. The rescue plan drawn up by Mr Hay involved cutting the workforce from 9,000 to 2,200.

● Economic forecast: Peter Walker, the former Welsh secretary, said in Bonn that eastern Germany would soon be the area of greatest economic expansion in the European Community, but that Britain was failing to take advantage of the fact.

Mr Walker, who succeeded in attracting massive Japanese investment to Wales, has been called in by the German government to attract British investment to the depressed eastern Lander. (Reuters)

## Ceasefire shattered in Croatia

Belgrade: Nine people were killed in fighting in Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina as ceasefire violations were reported by both Croatia and Serbia. (Our Foreign Staff write). Nineteen people have died since last Sunday.

United Nations officers were forced to spend several hours in shelters as the town of Beli Manastir was shelled by Croatian forces.

## Honecker clam

Bonn: Erich Honecker, the former East German leader who has taken refuge in the Chilean embassy in Moscow, has said that he is willing to return to Berlin to face trial for manslaughter if he is properly charged, a special Chilean envoy said here.

## Swiss riot

Winterthur: A Swiss demonstration by environmentalists against General Norbert Schwarzkopf, the US commander of allied forces in the Gulf war, turned into rioting after leftists tried to prevent guests from hearing the general speak at a meeting. (AFP)

## Revenue lost

Bonn: The German government will lose DM2 billion (£700 million) in revenue this year because the February 29 starting date for a new ride tax was omitted from legislation. Collection cannot be enforced until the beginning of next year.

## Small victory

Grenoble: A French court annulled a ban against dwarf-throwing after Mathieu Wackenheim, aged 25, appealed that it deprived him of a livelihood. The government claimed the sport of throwing dwarfs across a bar room was degrading. (Reuters)

## Fatal evidence

Bonn: Erich Scharf, aged 79, a former member of the SS, dropped dead in a Stuttgart court as he began giving evidence at the trial of Josef Schwarmberger, the slave labour camp and ghetto commander who is accused of killing 45 Jews.

## Hotdogs and hookers sour home of dolce vita

PLANS to close the Caffè Doney, one of the few remaining elegant bars on the Via Veneto, and the nearby Hotel Eden with its stupendous views over Rome, have alarmed Romans who fear the street that once symbolised the dolce vita could become squalid and sordid.

Many other landmarks from the decadent era of the 1950s and 1960s captured on celluloid by Federico Fellini and Anita Ekberg have disappeared already. Last year the smart Bar Carpano on the Via Veneto closed "for restructuring", and a few yards away a bank offering tourists exchange facilities has sprung up where the fashionable Caffè Rosati once stood.

In January Mondadori, the last of four bookshops that used to cater for intellectuals browsing in the Via Veneto wound up business because the proprietors could not afford a rent increase.

Antonio Scibona, the chief barman at Harry's

Sky-high hotel prices, all-night traffic and closure of elegant bars have driven the in-crowd out of a famous street, John Phillips writes from Rome

Bar, cannot confirm newspaper reports that the days of his august establishment are numbered after a recent management change. But Signor Scibona, who has worked at the Roman Harry's since it opened in 1961, is leaving to run his own bar in the Piazza Navona.

"Via Veneto has changed immeasurably," he said. "The beautiful people don't come here to stroll at night anymore. The number of tourists is much fewer."

A pressure group, the Association of Friends of the Via Veneto, have asked Franco Carraro, the mayor of Rome, to intervene with Ciga Hotels, the owners of Doney, to prevent the imminent closure of the cafe and its sedate reading rooms. Its 54 employees have been told they face early retire-

ment or transfer. A Ciga spokesman said the company intends to make a "radical restructuring" of Doney's, which lost the equivalent of almost £500,000 last year. It will be revamped as an annex to the neighbouring Hotel Excelsior but will not reopen for at least two years.

"Our fear is that the Caffè Doney will be gone forever, like all the 1950s intellectual meeting places on the Via Veneto," said Giovanni Lucente, a spokesman for the Friends of the Via Veneto.

The trade in rich American tourists has been declining since September 1985 when Palestinians attacked the Café de Paris on the Via Veneto with hand grenades and business worsened during the Gulf



Fading glory: Romans are fighting to preserve Via Veneto as a cultural landmark

war. Panorama magazine suggested that the street be renamed "Streetwalk Veneto" because of the growing number of hookers and transvestite prostitutes lurking on its pavements at night. "Addio Via Veneto," the magazine said. "The requiem seems to be definitive."

Signor Scibona at Harry's blames sky high prices in

Via Veneto area hotels and the failure of the city authorities to prevent nightly traffic jams for part of the decline. "People don't want to pay 500,000 lire (£233) or 600,000 lire a night to sleep badly."

The local authorities experimented in the 1980s with closing the Via Veneto to traffic from 9pm to 2am, luring many people back to

the pavement cafes in sight of the ancient city wall. But the experiment was halted after two years.

Inevitably the first fast food restaurant — referred to disparagingly by Signor Scibona as "that place across the street" — has opened on the Via Veneto decorated with lurid photographs of hamburgers and hotdogs.



## Nuclear accident evokes memories of Chernobyl and poses dilemma for states over vital energy supplies

## Reactor branded as unsafe before leak

Foreign experts have been seriously concerned by conditions at the Leningradskaya nuclear power station, Nigel Hawkes, Science Editor, writes

THE Leningradskaya nuclear power station where yesterday's incident took place is old, badly designed and run by an increasingly demoralised staff. Foreign experts who have visited it have been seriously concerned by conditions at the plant, the same type as the one which blew up at Chernobyl six years ago.

Last year Leningradskaya was one of two Russian plants ordered to reduce output because they did not meet international safety standards. Swedish specialists who visited the plant said that it should be shut down immediately because of its poor condition and inadequate fire protection system.

German experts were alarmed when their geiger counters recorded levels of radioactivity around the plant 400 times higher than normal, said to be caused by badly designed waste storage facilities. Other visitors report seeing a dozen or so wisps of radioactive steam rising from under the cover of the reactor, apparently a result of inadequate sealing between the reactor vessel and its 200-ton lid.

"That's the usual story these days," the plant's director, Anatoli Eperin, told *Business Week* magazine this month. "The seals we're getting now are pretty poor quality."

Yesterday's incident appears to have involved damage to at least one of the 1,600 fuel channels that run vertically through the reactor's graphite core. The immediate cause was probably a loss of coolant to one of the pressurised tubes containing the fuel elements. Deprived of coolant, the fuel would have overheated, bursting the fuel can and releasing the most volatile of the radioactive fission products, krypton-85 and iodine-131.

These isotopes then reached the reactor hall, apparently through the dedicated seals in the lid. Levels of radioactive iodine in the reactor hall were ten times normal, according to Russian reports. The fact that no other isotopes, such as caesium, were detected suggested that fuel temperatures did not greatly exceed normal levels, according to John Gitis of British Nuclear Forum, who has twice visited the plant.

From the reactor hall the gases escaped into the environment through normal ventilation ducts. Like many Russian reactors, the Leningradskaya unit, three lacks secondary containment

to trap radioactive leaks inside the building. Anatoli Kuznetsov, the duty officer at the plant, said repairs to the graphite tubes in the reactor hall where the leak occurred would take about four days. He said such leaks happened "from time to time" and were not dangerous. The plant was shut down as soon as the leak was detected.

Using the newly developed international scale for measuring the severity of nuclear accidents, the Russian authorities rated the incident at three — defined as a serious incident, but without implications for widespread pollution of the environment. On the same scale the Chernobyl accident rated at seven, and the 1979 Windscale fire and the 1979 Three Mile Island accident at five.

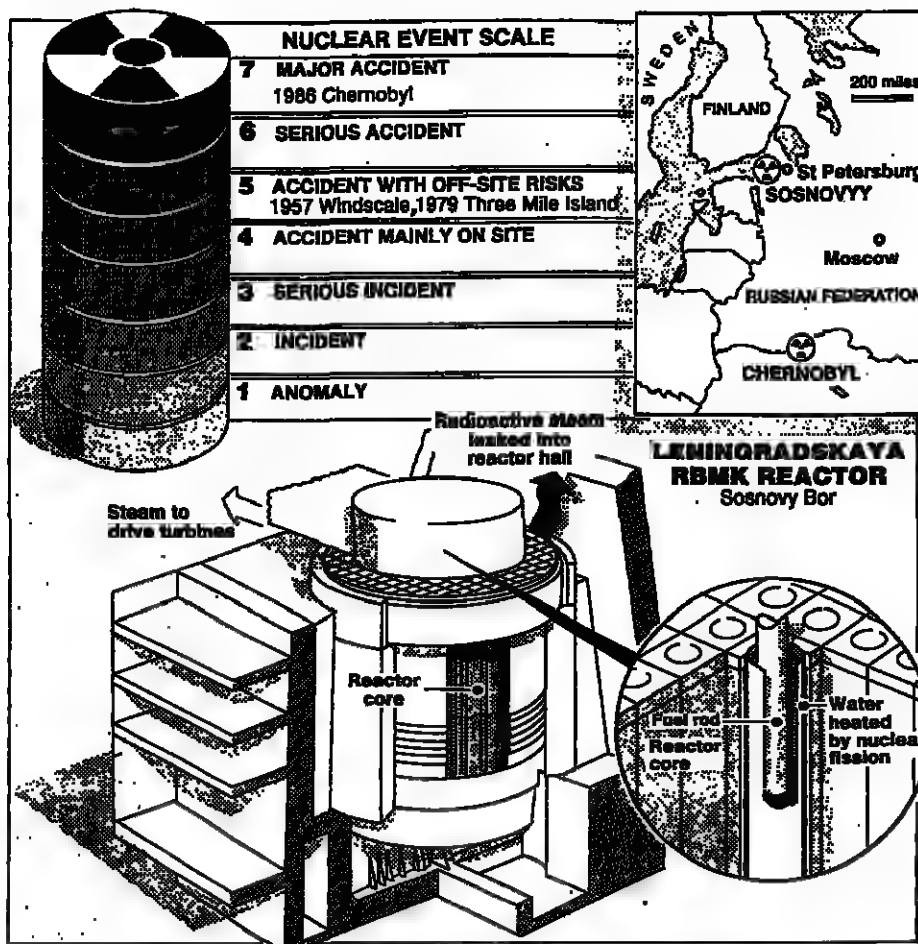
The RBMK reactors at Leningradskaya are early examples of a type developed in the former Soviet Union in isolation from international standards. They use graphite as a moderator and water as a coolant, a combination ruled out on safety grounds by the designers of the first British nuclear power plant in 1947. Fifteen RBMK reactors continue to operate in Russia and Lithuania, providing 40 per cent of the nuclear-generated electricity in the former Soviet Union, Russia's new State

Committee for the Supervision of Nuclear and Radiation Safety recognises the reactor's deficiencies but is powerless to act because no alternative sources of electricity exist to replace the RBMKs. The committee has already lost some of its best inspectors, tempted by higher salaries in the private sector. Western nuclear companies consulted about the possibility of making the RBMKs safe say that it would be too expensive. Adolf Hutt, chairman of the energy division of Siemens, says: "Because of their design flaws, it is economically not feasible to backfit RBMK reactors." The Russians could not afford to pay, and nobody else is likely to produce the billions of dollars needed.

Dr Gitis, however, is more optimistic. Together with experts from other countries he is hoping to organise an international task force to visit the RBMK reactors and see what could be done to make them safer.

"For £30-40 million we could do quite a lot," he said, "but the first thing is to get \$4.5 million of European Community money to investigate the problem and decide what needs to be done."

Letters, page 13  
Nuclear accident, page 1



Rogue reactors: the Leningradskaya nuclear power station, where radioactive gases leaked yesterday. Experts are divided on whether such reactors can be made safe

## Finland braced against ill wind from neighbour

FROM OLLI KIVINEN IN HELSINKI

NEWS of the Leningradskaya nuclear accident scared Finns because the plant is only 90 miles from the nearest part of the Finnish coast. Finnish scientists reported after visits to the plant that these Chernobyl-type Russian reactors are Finland's worst security risk.

The accident added dramatic flavour to the follow-up conference of the Helsinki process which opened in Helsinki yesterday. First information from Russia reached the meeting just as foreign ministers or their deputies from 51 countries were gathering for the official opening meeting at the Marina conference centre, which is in the middle of Helsinki harbour, 160 miles from the Leningradskaya plant.

Initial wind direction was southeast, which meant that possible radioactive emission would have come directly to Helsinki. Later the wind veered to northeast.

Finland officials succeeded in establishing immediate contact with the plant and were able to reassure the worried ministers and the population in extra news broadcasts that there was no immediate danger. Antti Vuorinen, the director of the radiation safety centre, said that the Russian officials told him that "the discharge of radioactive gases is within allowed limits". Finland's modern and extensive monitoring network did not detect any signs of increased radio-

activity anywhere on the south coast. The network was rebuilt after Chernobyl had revealed serious weaknesses in the detection of radioactivity.

When officials inspected the filters in equipment, designed to monitor long-term radiation, traces of radioactive iodine were found, but it is not known if they predated the latest accident. Professor Jorma Miettinen, a nuclear specialist who visited the plant only a month ago, said that "the people there do not know what they are doing". He noted that there are more than 1,000 water-cooling channels, "and it has been always known they are liable to break one by one".

Other Finnish and Swedish specialists who had visited Leningradskaya and Ingolstadt in Lithuania earlier this year had issued warnings about the obvious dangers. Many scientists were shocked by what they saw in the plants, and Swedish nuclear scientists have demanded their closure. Jukka Laaksonen, from the radiation safety centre, said that fires were the most obvious hazard in the Chernobyl-type plants in Russia.

■ **Amunition blast:** A forest fire caused a huge explosion at a Pacific fleet ammunition depot near the Russian far eastern port of Vladivostok. Tass news agency reported. Inhabitants for three miles around the depot were evacuated.

## East struggles with the problems of power and pollution



ANYONE who has spluttered and coughed their way around the grimy towns of northern Bohemia will understand the policy dilemma confronting Central Europe: to reduce air pollution, many governments are being forced to accept the risks of nuclear power generated by ancient, over-stretched power stations as flawed as Chernobyl's.

Western governments, notably those of Austria, Germany and Sweden, the three countries most geographically vulnerable to fallout from the East, are nervous, but have yet to untangle one of the most complex development issues of the day. Austria, for example, has decided to be nuclear-free. But it will draw power from Ukraine, some of it almost certainly from nuclear generators.

Europe's dilemma is that rich Western countries want to get rid of nuclear power, but poorer Eastern nations are dependent on it, Roger Boyes writes

For even prosperous countries to shrug themselves free of some measure of dependency on nuclear energy produced in out-dated and potentially dangerous power stations is difficult. Klaus Töpfer, the German environment minister, shut down East Germany's Greifswald station soon after unification. Now he proposes similar action for Kozloduy in Bulgaria, perhaps Europe's most accident-prone atomic power station. But completely to shut it down would lead to a drastic energy shortfall.

Czechoslovakia is also condemned to stay nuclear. Atomic power accounts for 27 per cent of total electricity generated, and there are plans to expand the nuclear role to 40 per cent. The fact is that the risks of nuclear power are played down by the wealthier societies of the West. Some form of joint European nuclear strategy needs to be devised. There has to be consensus on what kind of power station can be phased out and how quickly,

and which can be modernised with Western help. The technology to convert atomic reactors to a combined-cycle station powered by natural gas and coal exists, but it has not been tried successfully in the East and the costs are very high.

How Ukraine, a leading energy exporter, could afford the process of conversion is difficult to see. In 1991 Ukraine exported 16 billion kilowatt-hours of electricity to Eastern Europe, a quarter of which is produced in nuclear power stations. One Czechoslovak project may point the way for increasing nuclear safety. The Mochovce power station has contracted to sell electricity to a Bavarian utility company in return for instrumentation and control systems.

But these are partial solutions and are not enough to convince East Europeans that the time has come for a nuclear shutdown. New information from the Chernobyl area about the scope of radiation and the long-term health effects is not reassuring.

Nor is the organisational collapse of the Soviet Union. The central authorities in Moscow reacted slowly to the Chernobyl accident, but with some semblance of order. No big imaginative leap is needed to picture the scene if there were another accident tomorrow: this time not only fallout but droves of irradiated refugees would hurry westwards. Perhaps the time has come for pan-European strategic thinking to head off a pan-European disaster.

## Hurd wary of Libya's offer on wanted Lockerbie suspects

BY MICHAEL BRYN, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

DOUGLAS Hurd, the foreign secretary, yesterday voiced scepticism of the offer by Libya to hand over to the Arab League two men accused of the Lockerbie bombing. He said Britain would remain vigilant against any Libyan attempt to mislead the West. "They have made some sort of an offer... It remains to be seen what substance it has," he said.

The United States also believes that Tripoli may be playing for time to head off threatened United Nations sanctions. Thomas Pickering, the American ambassador to the UN, said the proposal might be "more of a stall than compliance". He was waiting for the offer in writing. Boutros Boutros Ghali, the UN secretary-general, was also said to be very cautious about the offer.

Sir David Hannay, the British ambassador to the UN, said there were some signs that Libya "may at last be beginning to move toward compliance".

Diego Arria of Venezuela, the president of the security council, said the two suspects, Lamen Khalifa Fhimian and Abdel Basset Ali al-Megrahi, would be "unconditionally surrendered to the Arab League". France, which is also demanding Libyan co-operation in the investigation of the bombing of a UTA plane over Africa, called the Libyan offer "positive". Jean-Bernard Mérimée, the UN ambassador, said the imposition of an air and arms embargo would be suspended until the proposals could be clarified.

The assumption in the West is that the Arab League would pass the Libyans on to the UN for transfer to Scot-



Wanted men: Lamen Khalifa Fhimian, left, and Abdel Basset Ali al-Megrahi, sought by the West

land or the United States to stand trial. The handover might be made at the United Nations Development Programme office in Tripoli. But the Arab League might wait for a ruling on the case from the International Court of Justice in The Hague.

"If they are willing to hand over the two men in circumstances which will lead to their being brought to justice either in Scotland or the United States, well and good," Mr Hurd told a Conservative news conference yesterday. "If not we will have to proceed at the UN with the kind of measures... which are being discussed at present," he added. "It's up to them to comply with the UN demands."

An Arab League delegation flew to Tripoli yesterday to discuss the Libyan offer with Colonel Gaddafi. It was led by Esmat Abdel-Maguid, the League's secretary-general, who said Libya's offer was a "sign of its flexibility and should be appreciated".

Libya has not said when, where or how the two men

signed to show solidarity with Tripoli.

Britain is sceptical of the many offers that Libya has made over the past month which fall short of full compliance, and appear to be buying time. It believes that the most likely outcome is the handing over of the accused to the United Nations. This would be acceptable only if there were an unambiguous understanding that the men would then be sent immediately to Britain or the US. By proposing the Arab League as a first step, Libya introduces one more element of uncertainty.

The plan appears to be the result of strong Egyptian intervention. Cairo has repeatedly warned Colonel Gaddafi of the dangers of non-compliance with the United Nations. Egypt has also urged the Western allies not to take any military action against Libya.

British and American scepticism is also based on doubts over the validity of the various proposals that have been made. Several north African diplomats claim to have spoken with Colonel Gaddafi's authority, but it is unclear whether he has entrusted any of them with an intermediary role.

Britain believes that by keeping up the pressure it has already forced the Libyans to move a long way, and that any hint of negotiation over the UN resolutions would only weaken the West's stance. Britain has been encouraged that Mr Boutros Ghali has refused to undertake any kind of negotiation with Tripoli, and has authorised his emissary merely to make known the UN conditions.

## Guests hurt in Amman hotel fire

Amman: Fire broke out during a Ramadan banquet at the Intercontinental Hotel here last night, stranding some guests on the upper floors. People could be seen standing on balconies, burning candles so that rescue workers could see them.

As firemen struggled to put out the blaze, dozens of injured people were receiving emergency treatment in front of the hotel, which is across the street from the American embassy. Suhel Jabra, an hotel desk clerk, said the basement was burning. He said it appeared that the fire started from an electrical failure.

Hotel officials said there were 36 people in the 225-room building, excluding employees and diners. (AP)

## About turn

Seoul: President Roh and his ruling Democratic Liberal party looked set to fall short of a majority in parliamentary elections, only hours after they appeared to be heading for a win, national television said. (Reuters)

## Recruit victim

Tokyo: Takashi Kato, a former Japanese vice minister of labour, has been convicted of accepting bribes in the Recruit corruption scandal that rocked Japan in the 1980s. He was fined 6.81 million yen (£30,000) and given a suspended prison sentence.

## Tyson target

Indianapolis: The prosecution will recommend this week that Mike Tyson, former world heavyweight boxing champion, be jailed for six to 10 years and fined \$30,000 (£17,440) for raping Desiree Washington, as well as pay related costs. (AFP)

## Bush earmarks aid for republics

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Bush, rebuked by Richard Nixon and prodded by Helmut Kohl, the chancellor of Germany, is soon expected to set aside his election-year abhorrence of foreign affairs and propose a comprehensive new multi-billion-dollar aid package for the former Soviet republics.

The State Department is quietly preparing such a package. At a White House meeting on Monday a bipartisan group of senators urged strong presidential leadership to sell the package to a hostile Congress and recession-battered nation, and left "cautiously optimistic" that Mr Bush would indeed be more assertive. Patrick Buchanan's fading "America first" challenge also makes that more likely.

The package reportedly includes roughly \$1 billion (£581 million) towards an international rubble stabilisation fund, a \$12-billion increase in American contributions to the International Monetary Fund, \$620 million for emergency humanitarian aid already announced, more agricultural credit guarantees and the ending of Cold War trade restrictions.

Mikhail Gorbachev, the former Soviet president, gave a warning in an interview published here yesterday, that social tensions caused by declining living standards in the former Soviet Union had reached an "explosive critical mass" and called some actions of the republics' leaders "sheer madness".

Mr Gorbachev told *The Washington Post* his country was being torn apart. Economic ties were disintegrating. Commonwealth

leaders were doing little but "walk and talk" despite rising tensions between Russia and Ukraine. President Yeltsin, he said, was moving too fast with his economic shock therapy, liberalising prices when much of the economy was still run as a state monopoly. Mr Gorbachev said his worst fears were being realised. "I have turned out to be too much of a prophet, one whose prophecies have begun to come true within a few weeks."

Mr Bush has all but forsaken foreign policy, at least publicly, since his political fortunes plummeted late last year, but has recently been accused of squandering an historic opening in world affairs by ignoring the republics' plight. Earlier this month Mr Nixon, described American aid to the republics as "pathetically inadequate". Recalling President Truman's pressure for the Marshall Plan, the former president acknowledged public hostility to foreign aid but said strong leaders made unpopular causes popular.

On Sunday Mr Kohl, at a joint press conference with Mr Bush, warned Americans that "the destiny of the world is being decided on the foreign-policy front" and nations that did not understand that "will pay very dearly for it".

■ **Georgia ties:** The White House announced yesterday that it was establishing diplomatic relations with Georgia, the last of the 12 republics to gain this recognition. America made the establishment of relations dependent on the republic's adoption of responsible security policies and democratic values.

## Denning defeats vicars

THE former Master of the Rolls Lord Denning won his dispute with two vicars yesterday when Basingstoke council in Hampshire agreed to treat him as trustee in charge of the Old School at Whitechurch, enabling him to convert it into a community centre for local people.

The vicars had offered to sell the building to the town council, but Lord Denning questioned their right to do so. He expects to have to put thousands of pounds of his own money towards the cost of the conversion.

■ A jury in a mock television trial yesterday acquitted Paul Keating, Australia's prime minister, of "murdering" the economy. David Lange, the former prime minister of New Zealand, was prosecutor in the case.

■ Paul McCartney, a vegetarian for 20 years, has persuaded meat-loving Eddie Murphy to convert to vegetarianism for a week as the price for collaborating on an all-star charity single.

■ The chairman of National Power, Sir Trevor Holdsworth, was installed as the third chancellor of Bradford University in West Yorkshire yesterday, succeeding Sir John Harvey-Jones.

■ The story of singer Neil Sedaka's love-at-first-sight courtship of his wife is being turned into a film. Sedaka married Leba 30 years ago after saying: "See that girl? I'm going to marry her."



## Our debt to a slayer of sacred cows

Keith Joseph on the work of Friedrich von Hayek

The gentle, cultivated polymath Friedrich August Hayek, who died this week, both predicted and outlined the serfdom to which good intentions and rationalism can lead ancient civilisations. From *The Road to Serfdom*, published in 1944, through to his last book *The Fatal Conceit*, he analysed the unintended poverty and the lack of freedom to which socialism — and flabby, statist conservatism too — can lead.

I am no Hayek scholar. I am not competent to write about his subtle and wide-ranging work. What I can bear witness to is his relevance to the past three Conservative governments, and the liberating effect on our recent political life of the writings of Hayek, who was Austrian by birth but naturalised British.

When in 1974, with the help of Nigel Vinson and Alfred Sherman, Margaret Thatcher and I set up the Centre for Policy Studies, we knew that the good intentions of the Ted Heath years — and of previous Tory governments too — had come to grief. And we struggled to learn the lessons. Time and again we learnt from analyses that Hayek had already published. It was he, for instance, who had predicted that the deliberate pursuit of full employment would, because of its inflationary consequences, be self-defeating. Even Harold Wilson admitted later that "inflation is the father and mother of unemployment".

Many politicians — and scholars also, I believe — did not realise the relevance of Hayek's multi-disciplined learning until we had experienced the evils that he had foreseen. We read his *The Constitution of Liberty*, published in 1960. We learnt to distrust the quicksands of "social justice", as opposed to the rule of law, and we learnt to distrust the "scientism" of the rationalists. We learnt about the obstacles to Hayek's "regime of freedom" which were results of trade union power, or results of the non-bankruptcy of the then vast public sector, or of the acceptance of pay, price, dividend and exchange controls which had been established. And we learnt about the matching-to-the-left effect of an unprincipled determination to be "moderate".

Hayek must have admired the work of Margaret Thatcher in tackling each of these obstacles to prosperity and freedom, and her recognition that the market order could do its benign work only within a constantly adjusted framework of law and regulation.

On the other hand, he regretted what he believed was the slowness of Mrs Thatcher's timetable for tackling inflation in 1979: he judged that the electorate would only tolerate a very short and therefore very sharp deceleration in the growth of money. In the event, the soaring of sterling coupled with constraint on the money supply achieved the reduction of inflation within the electorate's tolerance.

Hayek greatly admired a particular passage by Burke which reads: "Men are qualified for civil liberty in each proportion to their disposition to put moral chains upon their appetites..." Hayek must have sympathised with Mrs Thatcher in confronting the problem of how to tackle, within a free society, the cataclysmic effects on moral restraint of television and permissiveness. On an equally wide issue, he must have rejoiced at her explicit determination to demolish the sacred tenets of socialism, not just to delay their implementation as previous Tory leaders had been content to do. In this aim she was so successful that Labour was forced at least nominally to drop most of its old shibboleths. His last book, *The Fatal Conceit* (1988), explained vividly why the centralised decision-making at the heart of socialism must bring such a society to ruin.

Margaret Thatcher obviously admired and respected Hayek and his work. It must have been she who recommended him for the Companion of Honour, to which the Queen — to Hayek's known delight — duly appointed him.

Lord Joseph was a cabinet minister 1970-74 and 1979-86.

Black women face discrimination from white society and their own men, argues Conor Cruise O'Brien

## Slaves to race and sex

I am studying black feminism. That is not what I set out to study, but that is what it turned into. I set out to study the multicultural or politically correct coalition on American campuses. That coalition includes both women's studies people and black studies people, but the former are almost all white and the latter are mostly male, and not feminists.

I began investigating the multicultural phenomenon at the Wilson Centre for International Scholars in Washington DC last autumn, arriving just at the start of the sensational Senate hearings over Anita Hill's charges of sexual harassment against President Bush's Supreme Court nominee, Clarence Thomas. The case split the multicultural alliance. Most blacks were pro-Thomas, and virtually all feminists (whether they were white or black) were pro-Hill.

So I decided to give particular attention to the interaction between women's studies and black studies within the multi-

cultural alliance. I expected, and indeed hoped to witness a growing divergence between the two. Their alliance has been based on targeting the white male as the root of all evil, and this gets tedious after a while if you happen to be a white male.

I began reading everything I could find about the history of black women in America written by black feminist women. I expected to find a lot of propaganda. What I found was a solid body of historical work, and an absorbing human story.

Black feminist writing is more wide-ranging and perceptive than the white feminist kind. White feminism is aware of only one oppressor. Black feminists are aware of three white men, white women and black men. Black feminists have reason to know that it is not only white men who can be racist,

and not only white men who can be sexist. Black women have also a far greater experience of oppression than white women, and a somewhat greater experience of it than black men.

Black women had been left out of history until they started writing it for themselves. You will not find the name Sojourner Truth in *The Dictionary of American Biography*. Yet the woman who took that name was one of the most remarkable Americans who ever lived. She was born a slave, and being exceptionally strong became a field-slave. Overpowering her overseer, she escaped to New York in 1827. In 1843, "the Spirit commanded her to travel and preach and she announced herself Sojourner Truth". She was received in abolitionist and feminist circles, which of course overlapped, and

she attended the Women's Rights Convention in Akron, Ohio in 1851.

There she delivered two memorable rebukes, one to a white man, the other to a white woman. A clergyman had admonished participants in the convention about their rights and duties. It was Sojourner Truth who answered him: "That little man in black there, he says women can't have the same rights as men, because Christ wasn't a woman! Where did your Christ come from? From God and a woman! Men had nothing to do with him."

The other was addressed to a woman who had complained about sundry acts of male oppression, including the manner in which she had been handed into her carriage. Sojourner Truth answered: "Nobody never oppressed me by handing

me in to no carriage!" I was reminded of that last reply recently when I read in a section entitled "Oppression" in a modern textbook on racism and sexism a long passage analysing a social phenomenon entitled "the male door-opening ritual". People who, like Sojourner Truth, have known real oppression, don't have time for such trivialities.

The male black leadership is openly sexist. It is well known that when Stokely Carmichael was asked "What is the place of women in the civil rights movement?", his answer was: "On their backs!" The male black leadership represents black feminism as treachery to the black cause, a movement instigated by the white ruling-class in order to divide and rule the blacks. Educated black

women have a high propensity to be feminists and many blacks — most men and also some women — resent educated black women.

Hatred of men for women appears to be stronger among blacks than among whites. In the 1960s, Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan diagnosed what he called a "pathological matriarchal situation" in the black community, meaning that the status of women was higher, and that of men lower, than he considered appropriate. Some blacks strongly agreed with him. He reported that when he had asked a distinguished negro sociologist what could be done to help the negro man, the sociologist replied: "Anything that could be done to hurt the negro woman would help."

Awareness of manifold hostility around you can be stimulating to the wit and the perceptions, as the history of the Jews has shown. The responses of black feminists to the hostility that surrounds them are impressive and edifying.

## Voters are unhappy with the Tories but still have doubts about switching, says Peter Riddell

The Tories may be unpopular, but Labour has not yet convinced people that it can do better. My impression from speaking to voters and experienced canvassers in the last few days is that many voters are fed up with the government, but they are sceptical about both parties' promises. That accounts for the large number of undecided voters (many more than in recent campaigns) — notably the young, mortgage-holders and those living in the south.

Talking to people in Lordship Lane in Dulwich on Monday I was struck, as I was in Leamington last Thursday, by the number of people saying they felt "let down" by the government. The disillusionment appears to be greatest among those who began to climb the economic ladder during the Thatcher years, first-time house-buyers and those who bought council houses rather than those who remained tenants. They have suffered from high mortgage rates, arrears and repossessions.

Moreover, contrary to the conventional wisdom after the 1983 and 1987 elections, which suggested that unemployment was not electorally significant, the recession is now having an impact. Even in previously prosperous areas such as East Anglia and the Home Counties, Tory candidates report that unemployment is being mentioned on the doorsteps for the first time. People there feel especially aggrieved, since they did not expect to be made redundant or to find it hard to get jobs.

But Labour should not become complacent. The leadership may be self-confident, the morale of activists may be the highest for nearly 20 years, and reports from the marginal seats may be encouraging, but discontent with the Tories' record and sympathy for the "time for a change" appeal do not necessarily represent enthusiasm for a Labour government.

### RIDDELL ON THE ELECTION

The polls point in differing directions. The Mori survey in *The Times* this morning shows a 3 per cent Labour lead, down from 5 per cent a week ago. New ICM and Harris polls also show a Labour lead, but another recent survey puts the Tories ahead.

There is no real evidence of a big shift towards Labour on the central issue of economic competence, although the party retains its large lead on health and education. Labour's problem goes to the heart of the dilemma faced by all left-wing or democratic socialist parties in the West: how to finance activist government. The post-war orthodoxy was that the tax burden could be raised to pay for an expanding welfare state. Even in the early 1970s, Anthony Crosland could write in *Socialism Now*: "We shall require higher taxation of the whole better-off section of the community, which now includes some trade unionists (for example, in the docks, engineering, printing) who believe more strongly in differentials than equity."

But the hostility of many skilled workers to ever larger deductions from their pay-packets was one of the main reasons for the defeat of the Callaghan government in 1979, and of Jimmy Carter 18 months later. Even though by the end of the 1980s polls showed that a clear majority of voters favoured spending on public services over tax cuts, Tory and Labour politicians have gone on working on the assumption that there is strong voter resistance to tax increases. This constraint has been recognised by Neil Kinnock's promise that Labour would not raise taxes for the "huge majority of people".

The Labour response has been



a sleight of hand, a pretence that an emergency recovery programme, extra spending on health and education and a rise in tax thresholds — all over and above what is planned by the Tories — can be financed without an increase in the general level of taxation. Fewer than 20 per cent will pay more, Labour claims. The illusion is that there is such a thing as a free lunch, paid for by rich Uncle Bob and Aunt Betty. To square the circle, Labour has had to propose large tax increases in tax and national insurance for middle managers and the like, and not just for the very rich.

The Tories were yesterday gleefully pointing to Denis Healey's comment in his mem-

oirs that "Any substantial attempt to improve the lot of the poorest section of the population must now be at the expense of the average man and woman, since the very rich do not collectively earn enough to make much difference, and the average man does not nowadays want to punish those who earn a little more than he, since he hopes ultimately to join them."

Not is it any answer to talk of using the tax revenue from growth to finance extra spending over the life of the next parliament. The money has already been allocated. The deterioration in public finances revealed in the Red Book shows that any further revenue will be needed to get public borrowing down to the European target of 3 per cent of national income. Mr Kinnock argues that Labour has been careful not to commit itself to any increases in

surey projections are right; that will produce only a few billion pounds in 1995 and, beyond, David Mellor yesterday talked of the next spending round not being an easy one, with the Treasury "bearing down heavily" on additional discretionary expenditure.

Labour cannot really look to faster growth for salvation; the Treasury is already assuming 3½ per cent annual growth from 1994 onwards. Labour's emergency investment programme might boost growth slightly in the interim, but the room for manoeuvre on macro-economic policy is strictly limited by Britain's membership of the exchange-rate mechanism and the need to stay in line with German interest rates set by the Bundesbank.

Mr Kinnock argues that Labour has been careful not to commit itself to any increases in

public spending and improvements in the welfare state beyond John Smith's immediate package. Nonetheless, the Labour manifesto is full of what may euphemistically be called aspirations, which are not only uncosted but which will also raise expectations.

Last night's emotionally charged Labour election broadcast about the differing treatment of two little girls for an ear complaint — one whose parents can afford to pay and one who has to wait many months — was intended to leave the unmistakable impression that the health service would improve substantially under Labour.

The solid and suave front presented by Mr Smith may so far have deflected most of the Tories' attacks over the alleged £38 billion cost of Labour's programme, a figure which appears too big to be plausible. But there are many loose ends for Central Office to exploit.

Labour and Tory views do differ, but the difference is mainly one of degree. The Tories have aimed at containing the growth of the overall tax burden in face of what Mr Mellor yesterday described as the "inexorable growth in key social services provision", while cutting income tax when they can. Ministers would have done better to have made a virtue of this record, as a sign of their commitment to the welfare state, rather than appearing to quibble about the trend line Treasury accountants.

In that respect, the Liberal Democrats have been more candid in using the relative freedom of their minority status by acknowledging both that an anti-recession programme might involve increased borrowing in the short-term, and that an expansion in the education budget might require an increase in the basic rate of income tax. That appeal has helped prevent the party from being squeezed out by the Tories and Labour.

There is no easy way out for a party of the left. If it wants to expand public provision, the tax burden is likely to have to rise. That is partly why voters still have doubts about Labour.

## ...and moreover ALAN COREN

Something has really got up my arse, has really set my teeth on, nose, up my nose, this morning. Not to put too fine a thing on it, it could well be the straw that broke the camel's back, big animal, like a horse, but lumpier, does that ring a bell, that man from was it Arabia, they made a film about him, anyway he rode around on one as I recall, he blew up a train in somewhere or other during one of the world wars, you must have seen it, it had the one in it with the moustache, swarthy bloke, bridge-player if my memory serves me right, unless it was snooker. You know who I mean. Where was I? Oh, right, I wanted to tell you about this infuriating item I read in the *Daily*, the *Sunday*, hang on, I cut it out and put it down somewhere. I was reading it in the kitchen, no, the dining-room, the kitchen was where I went to get the scissors to cut it out with, so I probably carried it back into the dining-room, if you'll just bear with me I'll go and, ah, no, it's all coming back, I put it in my jacket pocket, but it doesn't seem to be, wait a sec, I wasn't wearing a jacket then, I didn't put my jacket on until well after, or rather just before, anyhow there was a ring at the back door, front door, and I had to go out and, hold on, it was my dressing-gown pocket, I read it while I was making tea, or did my wife make it, anyhow I'll just nip upstairs and...

Sorry I've been so long, I was standing in the bedroom staring at my dressing-gown and then I had to go back downstairs and come up again to try to remember why I had gone upstairs for my dressing-gown in the first place, and then after I went back upstairs it suddenly occurred to me that I hadn't telephoned someone I had to ask about something or other, Mr. Mr, could be Geoff, my wife knows who he is, but she's gone out to see her, as you were, down to the, oh God, tall redbrick building on the corner of, you must know the road, it's named after a king, not an English king, a king of, a king of the country had something to do with ointment, I get this picture of a tin, anyway I'll come to me in a bit, and then I can phone her there and ask her about this Geoff person, or possibly Brian, she may know what I did with my number, too, I know I wrote it down in the back of, I tell a lie, on the cover of, anyway I was in the middle of reading it when he phoned the first time, thick yellow paperback with some kind of a crustacean on, could have been a crayfish, it didn't have claws, yes it did, he won the Booker Prize a year or so back, might have been 1987 now I think about it, if that was the year we went to Bimini, or was it the Whitbread? I think I may have met him once, we were at this hotel, sorry, party, Airport. Not Gatwick.

Anyway, I've got the dressing-gown now, so that's all right, I'll tell you an interesting thing about this dressing-gown, it wasn't always blue, it used to be, um, it used to be a different colour, wait, wait, we never actually went to Bimini at all, we planned to go there, but at the last minute there was either an air-controllers' strike or one of the children caught could it have been measles, no, now I think about it they had measles while I still had the Volvo. God knows why I wanted to dye the dressing-gown, I must have had slippers it clashed with, in which case why didn't I dye the slippers instead, hold on, it was mumps they caught when I had the Volvo. I remember driving them down in the middle of the night to see old Dr. young Dr. and now I think about it it wasn't Bimini we didn't go to, it was Rimini. Well I never, here's where my cigarettes and lighter are, in my dressing-gown pocket! Well, that's it then. End of story. God knows what this is in the other pocket, it appears to be a cutting from *The Sunday Express*, I wonder how on earth that got there, it says Glaxo are spending £100 million developing a drug called ondansetron designed to cure absent-mindedness in the middle-aged, have you ever heard anything so preposterous, one hundred million pounds at a time like this, it is not as if it was even a problem, we all know absent-mindedness is just a figment of the, what's the word, this is not to be borne, it is all quite scandalous, I may very well write a piece about it.

## Journalism once removed

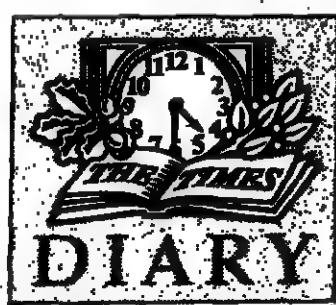
THE election campaign has claimed another casualty. John Sweeney, a journalist who works for *The Observer* and BBC 2's *The Late Show*, has been thrown off John Major's battle bus for filming those moments the camera never meant to see.

His expulsion comes as a result of protests not only from Major's entourage but from other journalists objecting to being filmed by Sweeney, who was commissioned by *The Late Show* to compile a light-hearted piece on the election coverage.

Sweeney's hand-held video camera, or camcorder, irritated politicians, journalists and photographers alike. As a result, Tim Collins, the Tory party's 27-year-old press secretary, summoned Sweeney late on Monday and told him not to return next day.

Sweeney says he has suffered more aggravation covering the general election than he experienced during the Romanian revolution or the war in Yugoslavia. "I was shocked," I filmed a Serbian general inside Zagreb during an air raid while the shells were falling, but I never experienced this. I am mystified as to what I am supposed to have done wrong."

Last week, Sweeney spent two days without incident accompanying Neil Kinnock. He even persuaded Glens Kinnock to hold the camera for shots of himself in the film. John Major also turned cameraman 30,000 feet in the air on the Tory jet for Sweeney's film. But shortly afterwards Sweeney committed his unforgivable sin: he filmed the prime minister on the plane giving journalists one of those off-the-record briefings which never took place. The reporters were even more outraged



than the prime minister. A Tory party spokesman says: "We hadn't realised what sort of filming he was going to do. He was intruding on the other reporters' privacy." And as we all know, no one places greater emphasis on respect for privacy than journalists...

Barbara Cartland finished work yesterday on what she claims is her 559th book. It ends, as ever, happily — but it was not always so. "I once wrote a book in which the heroine went off to a convent," she says. "I received so many complaints I changed it to a happy ending for the second edition."

### A word from Gerald

A FURIOUS Chris Patten was badly let down yesterday by the Tory spy in the Labour camp. The espionage is entirely above-board, for each of the main parties offers full facilities to its rivals at the daily press conferences. At this election, the Tories have the advantage of going last, allowing their speakers full briefings on their rivals.

Yesterday things went seriously awry. Patten opened the Tories' press conference with an blistering attack on Gerald Kaufman, whom, he claimed, Labour was not prepared to allow out in public. What his spy had not told him was that Kaufman had fronted

Labour's press conference half an hour earlier — and had challenged Douglas Hurd to a televised debate. Even as Patten was speaking, a gleeful Lucy Howson, the regular Labour spy in the Tory camp, was on the mobile phone telling Walworth Road about the gaffe.

So what had happened to the Tory spy, the Central Office library assistant Matthew Rees? The head of the Tory research department, Andrew Lansley, says: "We did have someone there but I don't know what happened." Patten has particular reason to be unamused by the blunder. "Chris's first job when he came to Central Office some 30 years ago was to monitor Labour's press conferences," Lansley says.



Will the Albanian election pave the way for a retired British electrician to reclaim his throne? Prince Charles Castriot De Renzi, aged 74, from Stoke, claims to be a direct descendant of the 15th-century King Castriot Skanderbeg, and says his claim to the throne is far greater than King Zog's descendants. But if he is summoned back he will rule from afar. "It would be dangerous for me to go back now and I cannot speak the language," he says.

### Ballot Russe

WITH the fervour of the converted, MPs from the Russian Federation have taken one look at the British election and decided that although Moscow may have come to democracy late, it already does these things rather better.

"In your country, elections seem to be about negative tactics and public cynicism," says Dimitri Rogozorin, a 29-year-old MP in the Russian Federation. He has been shocked by the Tory posters that read "You can't trust Labour". "I wouldn't trust anyone who did something like that," he says. "No party in Russia would produce such a poster."

Rogozorin is in London with a hundred other delegates mainly from Eastern European countries for a conference at Lancaster House, organised before the election was announced. The delegates spent yesterday campaigning with the Liberal Democrats in Richmond, while today they will be on the stump with the Conservatives in Streatham and with Labour in Battersea.

Rogozorin — a hero of the barricades outside Moscow's White House during the coup last August — is shocked by the apathy he has found. "Here people don't seem to care who they vote for because democracy is stable. In Russia it is much more serious because who you vote for determines not only how soon people get freedom but whether or not they get a piece of sausage. We will never get bored of elections."

Daniela-Carmen Crasnaru, the Romanian MP and writer, was even more scathing. "If the British had seen our lives in the past 45 years, they wouldn't be cynical about elections. We are enjoying our elections very much. Why don't the British enjoy theirs?"





## THE DEEPEST DIVISION

The Tories want to switch attention in the election campaign to foreign affairs. This is a strong, and Labour both has been and are weak. Are they right and would the country be wise to heed them?

There is little realistically to choose between the two big parties in most areas of foreign policy. The famous cliché remains true, that British interests are best protected by identifying them with American interests. Transatlantic bipartisanship underpins policy in the Gulf and towards Eastern Europe. In practice it also applies to policy towards South Africa, the Middle East, Gatt and collective security. Even on defence daylight is hard to detect between Labour and Tory.

The public need not worry that British interests round the world will be seriously jeopardised by a Labour government. John Major and Douglas Hurd auditioned yesterday as a more convincing double act on the international stage than Neil Kinnock and Gerald Kaufman. Mr Kaufman's cantankerous nipping of Mr Hurd's every move suggests a smallness of mind alien to the practice of diplomacy. But high office could yet raise his game.

However, in one area of policy — the European Community — bipartisanship is not present. True, the Tories may talk tougher than they are inclined to act, while Labour may find itself having to act tougher than it has so far talked. But a deep divide separates Mr Kinnock and Mr Major on European union. And however little it may feature in the election, this area of policy will be crucial to the government of Britain over the next decade. Since the party leadership disagree so fundamentally on it, few matters deserve more attention from the voters.

At the time of Maastricht, Mr Kinnock and Mr Kaufman, with apparent sincerity, castigated the performance of the British team for lack of commitment to economic and political union. Labour would have signed the social chapter of the Maastricht treaty. It would have extended the activities of the Brussels Commission and of the European parliament. There appear to be few areas of "competence" into which Labour would not wish to see Jacques Delors and his commissioners extend their remit.

Labour's flirtation with Brussels may have been a passing affair, a calculation as to what prevailing philosophy — to the left of Thatcherism could not be all bad: "The enemy of my enemy is my friend". A Labour government, finding the EC denying it some of its programme, may regret having been so enamoured of federalism. With a minimum of grace, Mr Kaufman did accept the Conservative position that control of European economic and monetary policy remain firmly in the hands of national governments, co-ordinated through the ministerial council structure. Labour does not want a fully independent central European bank on the Bundesbank model.

None the less, the path to European economic and political union well demonstrates Mr Kinnock's political thought process. A federal Europe is presented by M Delors and his acolytes in Brussels as the continental apotheosis of a planned and regulated economy, with a central authority asserting social priorities, protecting labour and industrial cartels and ordering international tax redistribution. This is not based on any USA model: this is a far more interventionist regime, rooted in a far more interventionist political culture. Labour has understandably seized on the Delors vision as one of its few "post-socialist" articles of faith.

While Mr Major has indeed taken Britain deeper into the EC — dangerously into the ERM as Chancellor, reluctantly towards EMU at Maastricht — he and his colleagues remain suspicious of further steps towards supranationality. Mr Major says he was satisfied that the Maastricht treaty was "the best possible treaty for the UK and for Europe". But his alarm in the run-up to the treaty was well justified: his attempt to reform it and delay monetary union was sound; his refusal to sign the social chapter was wholly in Britain's interest.

For Labour to abrogate yet more freedom of economic manoeuvre is indefensible. For it to do so when many sensible politicians on the continent of Europe, including left-wing ones, are growing wary of economic and political union, is stupid and archaic. This is not just one more election issue; over the lifetime of the next Parliament, it could prove the most important of all.

## DECAY OF THE DENTIST

John Major and his ministers angrily deny that they are privatising the National Health Service. In dentistry creeping privatisation is taking place none the less. In London and the South East, those who are not old or young or poor will have a struggle to find a dentist willing to accept them as an NHS patient. Only 4 per cent of adults in the town of Bromley, Kent, have access to such treatment. The *Times* reports today. Nationally, one in four dentists are turning away NHS patients. Why?

Many dentists dislike providing NHS care. Permission from dental service administrators has to be sought before embarking on expensive treatments. NHS dentists are forced to use inferior materials. They are also forced, under the new dental NHS contract, to register patients and accept continuing 24-hour responsibility for them. They are paid for this trouble, but their NHS fees have been cut back. Meanwhile, dental charges, which raise £400 million a year for the NHS, have gone up. Adult patients now pay 75 per cent of the cost of their treatment, up to a maximum of £200. Many dentists find it simpler to persuade adult customers to pay in full, and stay clear of the NHS altogether.

Robin Cook for Labour promised yesterday to rescue the NHS dentist. He will be revealing his £1 billion NHS spending plan today, but has already pledged that his party would reintroduce free dental checks and would end other charges as and when finance permits.

Tory ministers insist dentistry is safe in their hands. They point out that pensioners, pregnant women, children and those on income support do not have to pay for treatment. They maintain that enough dentists remain to treat such patients. Nor

are they sympathetic to dentists' claims for more money when fees have gone up faster than inflation, when average earnings are comfortably in excess of £30,000 a year, and when some hard-working dentists enjoy six-figure incomes.

There is, however, a more radical question which ministers do not ask, at least in public. Should the state not welcome the decline in NHS dentistry? Is privatisation not the sensible way to provide dental services for adults? Dentistry used to be about rectifying tooth decay. Fluoride means children today are virtual strangers to cavities and fillings. Despite the sugar lobby, parents now understand that their offspring must not gorge sweets. The era of drill-and-fill is now universally deplored, and prevention is the watchword.

This has not meant fewer dentists. On the contrary: the number of dentists in practice has risen from 11,900 in 1961 to 18,600 today. Dentists have diversified. They polish, they straighten, they cap. From their point of view, this is understandable. Otherwise, their onerous training would be wasted. If patients wish to have prettier, cleaner mouths, no one can object. But the NHS should not be paying for work which is essentially cosmetic.

Since patients pay for three quarters of the cost when they go to NHS dentists, since many of them seem to be willing to pay the extra quarter to be treated privately, and since so much bureaucracy is involved in dealing with that remaining quarter, it is time the pretence that dentistry has to be an integral part of a universal NHS was dropped. The NHS should concentrate on preventative dentistry, and on the 42 per cent of charge-exempt patients. The private market will look after the rest.

## MAESTRO OF ECONOMICS

Politicians, preoccupied with the next soundbite, rarely have time to reflect on the ultimate sources of their policies and beliefs. But they owe more to political thinkers such as Friedrich von Hayek than they care to admit. The last and most universally gifted product of the Austrian school of economists died during a British election campaign in which his ideas about the nature and functions of the state are, for the most part unwittingly, the subject of daily argument and diatribe.

Having outlived many of those who ignored or ridiculed him during the lean decades when he was dismissed as an antediluvian crank, Hayek saw many of his convictions vindicated in his last years. He was right about the unviability of centrally planned economies, the indispensability of the "spontaneous order" of the market, and the pernicious role of governments in causing inflation. By 1989, his time had come even in the heartlands of socialism.

Other no less integral parts of his political thought have not yet found widespread enough support to be put into practice. None of the parties in this election advocates an end to progressive income tax, for instance; nor would the Treasury readily sanction anything as radical as Hayek's dizzying vision of denationalising the currency. With hindsight, *The Road to Serfdom*, his most famous book, now seems unduly gloomy about the prospect of a collapse of civil society under the burden of the welfare state.

Yet the seemingly abstract edifice of the Hayekian theory of liberty deserves to be visited by practising legislators even more than by others. Because he did not believe in

the efficacy of reforms, and because he never sought to promote his own version of social justice, Hayek's criticisms were more than usually disinterested. No academic has ever been less ready to flatter those in office, and a healthy scepticism about the motives of political conduct informs all his works.

Hayek called himself a Whig: "Why I am not a conservative" is the title of a celebrated chapter in *The Constitution of Liberty*. Such an anachronistic allegiance might seem in absurd contrast to his central European background. But among the Viennese patriots from whose ranks he sprang, Hayek was not the only Anglophile liberal. Like his cousin Wittgenstein and many of their kind, Hayek found refuge in Britain from the lunacy of totalitarianism. Though he lived in Chicago and Freiburg during the last few decades of his life, he returned eagerly to his billet at the Reform Club whenever the opportunity arose. He loved to breathe the same air that Hume and Smith, Ricardo and Mill had done; and he valued British institutions, above all the common law, more than most Britons.

Ideas never the possession of one party, still less of one prime minister. Hayek admired Margaret Thatcher, but his relations with her were never close. He was no Aristotle to her Alexander. His contention that equality and liberty were incompatible aims placed him on Mrs Thatcher's side during her confrontation with the trade unions. But his theories were never meant to be apologies for her practice. Hayek's name deserves to be honoured by those of all parties and of none.

## BMA meeting on NHS reforms

From Mr David L. Crosby and others

Sir, On March 26 the British Medical Association holds a controversial representative meeting to consider the NHS reforms and the BMA council's document, *Leading for Health*. The cost of this meeting will add significantly to the £2.2 million already dissipated in the campaign against the NHS and Community Services Bill of 1990.

The fact is that the many disasters forecast by the opponents of the reforms have not occurred. Far from old ladies being deprived of their medicines and the chronic sick neglected, there is increasing evidence of a new sensitivity to the needs of general practitioners and their patients by NHS hospitals.

Neither directly managed nor trust hospitals can now afford to sit back and expect patients to endlessly wait. It can be no surprise too that the numbers of general practitioners favouring budget-holding have doubled, and 20 per cent more are no longer opposed to that concept.

The separation of purchaser from provider is producing large improvements in throughput and the quality of patient care. The NHS had become complacent and always too ready to blame underfunding.

In the hospitals, better management, competitive tendering, the devolution of decision-taking and the involvement of clinicians in their management have created an atmosphere of enthusiasm and a willingness to make better use of resources. There is, too, a welcome emphasis on higher standards and audit.

We support reforms which are essential steps in ensuring the focusing of resources for the continuance of a comprehensive National Health Service, free at the point of delivery.

Yours faithfully,  
DAVID L. CROSBY (Consultant surgeon),  
RUSSELL HOPKINS (Consultant maxillofacial surgeon),  
MICHAEL ROSEN (Professor in anaesthetics),  
University Hospital of Wales,  
Heath Park, Cardiff,  
March 24.

## Orthodoxy and Duke

From the Bishop of Gibraltar in Europe

Sir, Your article (March 18) about the possibility of a visit by the Duke of Edinburgh to the Ecumenical Patriarchate made sad reading, and shows little understanding of the importance of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, which ranks as the first of all the holy Orthodox churches throughout the world, and is by no means a "minority sect".

His All Holiness Bartholomew I is already a much respected leader by Christians of all denominations, and as the son of a barber is well qualified to share in the ministry of Jesus, the good shepherd of our souls, who himself was trained in a carpenter's shop. It was surprising to read that the present patriarch lives in a few ramshackle buildings, when the patriarchate has been most beautifully restored in recent years (the greater part of it was burnt down at the beginning of the second world war).

It is not the Ecumenical Patriarch who regards himself as *primus inter pares* but the entire Orthodox world, composed not only of Orthodox Christians from south-eastern Europe but from every continent in the world.

Yours sincerely,  
JOHN GIBBALTAR,  
3a Gregory Place,  
Kensington, W8,  
March 19.

## Kemptown candidate

From Mrs Jaquetta James

Sir, As the widow of David James, the Conservative defeated in Brighton Kemptown in 1964, I can assure Sir Robert Rhodes James ("Here's to the Class of '59", March 14) that far from my husband being absent during the election campaign, I drove him daily round the constituency in the loudspeaker van throughout the three weeks, as well as to his evening meetings. He missed canvassing only one morning when he had lost his voice.

The fact that my husband was later adopted for North Dorset, a seat he held from 1970 until he retired in 1979, indicates that Central Office did not attribute the loss of Kemptown to him personally.

Yours faithfully,  
JAQUETTA JAMES,  
Tonney Castle,  
Isle of Mull, Argyll,  
March 16.

## Payment of legal fees

From the Chairman of the Bar and the President of the Law Society

Sir, The Lord Chancellor's letter (March 21) on legal fees is a shade disingenuous, on two counts.

1. Civil legal aid: The Lord Chancellor concedes that he presides over a scheme which allows payment of only 54 per cent after 12 months (solicitors) or 62 per cent after 18 months (barristers), following the issue of a legal aid certificate. In the nature of things, legal work begins very soon after the issue of the certificate: if bills are assessed, on average, at about 75 per cent of the sum claimed, what is the justification

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

## Election 92: business and science votes, overseas aid

From Mr Philip D. Grestorex

Sir, As a middle-aged, middle-class, self-employed businessman with a wife and two children who has voted Conservative for 20 years, I wonder if Sir Allen Sheppard et al (letter, March 17) could tell me, in the light of the following, why I should do so this time?

Thanks to Messrs Saatchi, Saatchi and Patten, "whammy" seems to be the word of the moment. Let us consider the government's triple whammy:

1. In 1987-8, while John Major was chief secretary to the Treasury, the economy was allowed to overheat, which caused the present recession;  
2. To correct the situation John Major, as Chancellor of the Exchequer, presided over 15 per cent interest rates for 12 months, which caused the recession to be the longest and deepest in living memory;  
3. In the last six months, while John Major has been prime minister, the PSBR has rocketed to 13p off the standard rate of income tax. City analysts to a man were knocked for six at the figure of £28 billion.

Yet, still, all we hear from government ministers is that our rate of inflation is now lower than that of Germany (just). Is that surprising when Germany currently has huge inflationary pressures? And why is it considerably higher than that of our socialist France after the pain of our record levels of bankruptcies, business failures, house repossessions and nearly three million people unemployed?

I do not relish John Smith's tax proposals. In fact, I deplore them, but I respect his honesty and integrity for telling me what to expect, so that I can budget for it. It is a refreshing change from a prime minister and Chancellor of the Exchequer who until recently have denied the very existence of recession.

Yours faithfully,  
PHILIP D. GRESTOREX,  
37 West Park, Minehead, Somerset,  
March 23.

From Mr George Plint

Sir, I am the managing director of a small engineering company which employs 55 people. Last year our turnover was £2 million, of which 90 per cent was export. A substantial proportion of our sales was to major companies in the USA, Japan and Germany.

Our success depends heavily on high-quality engineers and technicians. Well before the age of 30 a good graduate engineer (a highly saleable commodity overseas) can earn substantially more than the

£21,060 upper limit on National Insurance contributions. Why spend more money on education and training if we are going to encourage our best to flee the country?

We have not individually or collectively made huge fortunes in recent years as others have done through property speculation, mergers and acquisitions or Eurobond dealing. We have made adequate returns and salaries through making and selling things and through hard work and innovation in a very competitive market. Why does the Labour party want to punish us?

Yours faithfully,  
GEORGE PLINT,  
The Well House,  
Malshanger, Hampshire,  
March 23.

From Dr Terence Kealey

Sir, In their attempt at pushing science into the party political debate, Professor Paul Nurse et al write (letter, March 23):

Between 1981 and 1991, government funding of the science base fell from 0.35 per cent... to 0.28 per cent of GDP... This shortfall has not... been balanced by an equivalent increase in industrially funded research and development.

This is a misleading statement: first, government funding did not fall, but British GDP rose (dramatically); and secondly, other sources of funding for science also rose dramatically over that time (industrial, charitable and private funding for university science all doubled during the 1980s).

The crucial statistic is this: during the 1980s, the numbers of university academics rose by 700 a year, and there are now 7,000 more than there were ten years ago. This is no decline.

During the 1980s, many prominent scientists claimed that British science was in decline. This has done great harm: first, the transparent falsity of the claim dismayed those who believed that scientists would always put truth above politics; and secondly, the claim damaged the morale of young researchers who trusted their seniors' statements.

There are, of course, problems in science and the universities (the career structure, for example) but since these problems are largely of our own making, we should not use them to fuel our party-political commitments.

Yours faithfully,  
TERENCE KEALEY,  
University of Cambridge,  
Department of Clinical Biochemistry,  
Addenbrooke's Hospital,  
Hills Road, Cambridge,  
March 23.

## Iraq's weapons

From the Director of the Institute of Economic and Political Studies

Sir, I must dispute your leading article, "America's risky course" (March 16). The early elimination of Iraq's weapons of mass destruction and missile production facilities can be accomplished at an acceptable political and military price. Targeted action is not an insuperable problem. Accurate intelligence can be gathered and properly assessed to enable the Tomahawk cruise missiles to strike with surgical accuracy.

Clearly in the absence of specific military action — and not merely the threat to resort to it — President Saddam Hussein has achieved a striking diplomatic triumph over the UN simply by blocking the UN inspection teams. The failure to

prevent this because of short-term electoral considerations on either side of the Atlantic threatens international security.

The dispatch of an allied armada should not be an exercise in non-belligerent power to promote the pressing electoral ambitions of either President Bush or Mr John Major. The current build-up of the US strike force should be a serious deployment of usable power directed at specific targets identified by the UN as constituting a potential threat to world peace.

Yours sincerely,  
GEOFFREY LEE WILLIAMS,  
Director,  
INSTEP,  
Warkworth House,  
Warkworth Terrace,  
Cambridge,  
March 19.

## Nuclear accidents

From the Director, Medical Campaign Against Nuclear Weapons

Sir, This morning's media frisson surrounding the first reports of the nuclear accident near St Petersburg reveals an awareness which is so often buried.

While we wait to hear what the damage is and to whom, more political reflection is needed on what is to be done about civil and military nuclear facilities in the CIS and eastern Europe, and not just there but here and across the globe.

How many accidents, and they will continue to occur, do we need before all nuclear programmes are shut down and the best scientific brains we have are assembled to find out if the nuclear genie, or most of it, can be sufficed back in the bottle which, with the benefit of hindsight, our leaders were so unwise to unlock?

Yours faithfully,  
TONY SMYTHE, Director,  
Medical Campaign Against Nuclear Weapons,  
601 Holloway Road, N19,  
March 24.

## Breakfast survey

From Mr Egon Ronay

Sir, Joe Joseph was quite correct in reporting ("Airport breakfast wins flying colours", March 23) that "plenty of money" was paid for surveying, and reporting on, breakfasts at Heathrow over a period of three months. That's what it took for me to assemble a team of four, including myself, to carry out the task of testing well over 700 items of food and breakfast drinks, and to put together and publish a magazine about the operation, to which distinguished journalists are contributing.

But Mr Joseph was not correct to doubt the anonymity or otherwise of our daily, early-morning visits to 23 catering outlets. Most of the time we were not recognised and when, towards the end, we were, how could the food turned out on a mammoth scale suddenly be improved because of my presence? And even if it had, that alone would be worth "plenty of money".

Yours faithfully,  
EGON RONAY,  
37 Walton Street, SW3,  
March 23.

From Professor Earl Russell

Sir, Professor Paul Nurse, FRSE, and others, on the funding of science, make a strong case against the government. I observe that their letter does not express a preference between the opposition parties.

The Liberal Democrats will immediately increase the science budget to 0.35 per cent of GDP. The signatories of the letter will no doubt wish to consider whether Labour can match this commitment, as well as their other beliefs and the political situation in their constituencies, before deciding to which of the opposition parties they will give their support.

Yours sincerely,  
RUSSELL,  
House of Lords.

From Mrs Ann Clwyd

Sir, The world's one billion poor people may be off the election agenda of other parties and of the media, but I can assure your correspondents from six leading development agencies (letter, March 20) that they are firmly on Labour's agenda. Just two weeks ago we launched a document outlining our development policies.

A Labour government will upgrade the Overseas Development Administration of the Foreign Office to a new Department of International Development, with a secretary of state in the Cabinet.

Britain's aid programme has been slashed by 17 per cent in real terms since 1979, reaching an all-time low of 0.27 per cent of GNP. Labour will aim to meet the United Nations target of 0.7 per cent of GNP within five years — the lifetime of a full Parliament. Our policy document, *A World of Difference*, defines how our revitalised aid programme will focus on the poorest people (particularly women), the poorest countries and on protecting the environment.

Labour will promote new measures for Third World debt relief, changing the law affecting the tax system to encourage British banks to reduce commercial debt, while working with like-minded governments to ensure that debts owed to the EC and World Bank are alleviated. We will promote greater and fairer trade for the poorest countries, particularly through reform of the common agricultural policy.

The public has shown time and again that it does care about development. These policies show that Labour cares too.

Yours sincerely,  
ANN CLWYD (Shadow minister for overseas development),  
136 Canon Street,  
Aberdare, Mid Glamorgan,  
March 21.

## 'Invisible' women

From Mrs Sue Boswell

Sir, Impressive as University College London's record of equal opportunity is (letter, March 23), we at Goldsmiths' can claim that in this area we are leading the way: our six women professors out of 18 amount to 33.3 per cent of the total against a national average of about 3 per cent. Women make up 30 per cent of our senior lecturers (national average less than 9 per cent), 26.5 per cent of our readers, 38.8 per cent of our heads of department and 33.3 per cent of our deans. Our administration is over 50 per cent female and we have women, such as our academic registrar, in key administrative positions.

The college's equal opportunities committee continues to seek ways of increasing these percentages, and also of encouraging more women into the traditionally male non-teaching areas, such as maintenance and portering staff.

Yours faithfully,  
SUE BOSWELL,  
Senior Assistant Registrar,  
Goldsmiths' College,  
New Cross, SE14.

## Referendum issue

From Mr Eric D. Morley

Sir, R. W. Johnson (article, March 16) gives the possibility of South Africa being excluded from the Miss World contest as being among "insubstantial themes" put forward by those advocating a yes vote in the recent referendum.

Such contests are not insubstantial to most of the world. Over 80 countries take part in Miss World and, of those, over 50 see it as a television show, representing 700 million viewers. Last year alone the contestants raised over \$100,000 for children's charities.

Yours faithfully,  
ERIC D. MORLEY,  
(Executive Chairman),  
Miss World (Jersey) Ltd.,  
21 Golden Square, W1.

## Non-vintage cricket

From Mr Stephen Gall

Sir, Your correspondent, Mr A. P. F. Williamson (March 24) provided me with my first taste of a new South African wine. I found it fairly unpalatable — perhaps the grapes were too sour?

Yours faithfully,  
STEPHEN GALL,  
127 Crookston Road,  
Eltham, SE9.

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (071) 782 5046.







OBITUARIES

FRIEDRICH VON HAYEK

Friedrich Hayek, CH, the economist who was known as the "father of monetarism" died at his home in Freiburg in Breisgau, Germany, on March 23 aged 92. He was born in Vienna on May 8, 1889.

FRIEDRICH Hayek was the last, and among the most distinguished, of the Austrian school of economists. During a long and fertile intellectual life, his wide interests enabled him to organise his ideas into one of the most original and impressive of all systems of political thought. From a single fundamental principle, which he called "spontaneous order", Hayek sought to deduce the evolution not only of markets, but of law and knowledge itself. All the greatest human achievements, he believed, arose from unintentional activity, to which human design was nearly always inimical. His work embraced psychology and the history of ideas as well as economics and political theory. Though based firmly on empirical research, in the end Hayek's philosophy amounted to a vast systematic elucidation of man and society.

Hayek never held office; nor, with the exception of his best-seller *The Road to Serfdom*, did he engage in political debate. But he exercised a profound influence upon the climate of thought in Britain, his adopted homeland. In America and ultimately throughout Eastern Europe, his systematic defence of individual liberty, private property and the rule of law attracted countless victims of socialism. Hayek was loathed by those who advocated state intervention into social and economic activity in order to produce a certain outcome. His last book called this vain desire "the fatal conceit".

Hayek grew up in a recently ennobled Viennese family of Czech origin. His father was a professor of botany, and the Hayeks moved in a cosmopolitan milieu which Friedrich later described as philo-Semitic. As a young man he served in the Austrian army on the Italian front, where he met his distant cousin Ludwig Wittgenstein: the two had little in common.

At this stage Hayek was a moderate social democrat, much influenced by the leading economist and minister Friedrich von Wieser. Only when, in his mid-twenties, he met Ludwig von Mises, an uncompromising believer in the free market and the ideas of Adam Smith, did he abandon socialism. Having gained doctorates in both economics and law at Vienna University, Hayek worked as a civil servant. In 1927 he became director of the Institute of Economic Research, at which he wrote important papers on monetary theory and the trade cycle, published in book form in 1929.

By the time of the collapse of the Austrian banking system in 1931, Hayek was already sufficiently well-known for Lionel Robbins to invite him to the London School of Economics, where he became Tooke Professor of Economic Science and Statistics. But his fame as an economist dates from the lectures he gave at the LSE, published as *Prices and Production* in 1931. It was a brilliant, original, brief analysis which was highly relevant to a nation suffering from a severe deflationary slump. At the age of 32, Hayek was instantly established as a serious rival to Keynes whose star rose as the helplessness of politicians became more evident with the formation of the National Government.

By 1932 Hayek was the champion of those



who maintained, against Keynes, that state intervention in general, and demand management in particular, would be more likely to prolong the depression than to curtail it. Having published a detailed critique of Keynes's *Treatise on Money*, Hayek was dismayed to find that the Cambridge economist had already abandoned some of his main positions in that book before the review appeared. When Keynes published his *General Theory* in 1934, therefore, Hayek refused to attack it — a grave error, as he later acknowledged, for Keynesian economics thereafter quickly became dominant in Britain. The two men remained on good personal terms, however, and it was Keynes who ensured that Hayek was given rooms at King's when the LSE was evacuated to Cambridge during the war.

Meanwhile Hayek had not been idle. He published a steady series of books and articles: *Monetary Nationalism and International Stability* (1937), in which he broke a lance for free trade and a substitute for the gold standard; *Prices, Profits and Investment*, which continued the argument of *Prices and Production*; and in 1941 there appeared what he hoped would be his *magnum opus*, *The Pure Theory of Capital*. This book, almost unnoticed amid the tumult of war, was the high watermark of Hayek's concern with technical economic theory. But the ascendancy of Keynes had given economics an empirical thrust, and Hayek was interested neither in macroeconomic policy nor in econometrics. Unlike Keynes, he did not welcome the opportunities to put his theories into practice offered by the quasi-socialist war economy.

Even before 1939, however, Hayek's work had taken a new turn, with his interest in the

theory of centrally planned economies. Having demonstrated in debate with the left-wing economist Oskar Lange the impracticability of substituting a central authority for the decentralised decision-making of the market, Hayek began to develop his distinctive theory of spontaneous order. He also wrote a celebrated paper — not published till 1948 in the first of several important volumes of essays, *Individualism and Economic Order* — on the two traditions of rationalism, one (beneficent) deriving from the Scottish enlightenment, the other (malevolent) from the French Revolution. In *The Counter-Revolution of Science* (1952), Hayek later developed this theme even further, into a critique of the "constructivist" rationalism popular among intellectuals, of which modern socialism was only one consequence.

During the 1939-45 war, however, Hayek had produced his one popular book, and the one for which he will always be remembered: *The Road to Serfdom*. It was not intended to be a prophecy, but to warn against the potential for creeping totalitarianism which Hayek saw hidden in the burgeoning welfareism of the Labour party after Beveridge. *The Road to Serfdom* has sold millions of copies, though Hayek, like many economists a poor businessman, never made a penny from royalties. But from the first it made him enemies. When Churchill picked up its attack on state intervention and planning in the 1945 election campaign, Attlee made a withering reference to "the Austrian Professor Friedrich August von Hayek" (Hayek had long since become a naturalised British subject). He was hurt more by Orwell's strictures: free competition would impose a tyranny "probably worse, because more irresponsible, than that of the

State". Keynes called it a "grand" book, but stuck to his advocacy of "moderate" planning. For Hayek, the Labour landslide of 1945 presaged years in the wilderness.

In 1950 he therefore moved to Chicago, where his break with formal economics was signalled by his acceptance of a chair in social and moral science. It was a fruitful time, after his last unhappy years at the LSE. He published his theory of mind and the senses, *The Sensory Order*, in 1952; though ignored by most psychologists, it influenced the aesthetic ideas of his fellow-Viennese E. H. Gombrich.

In 1960 came his magisterial political treatise, *The Constitution of Liberty*, which took many years to establish itself as a modern classic. Together with *Law, Legislation and Liberty*, which appeared in three volumes between 1973 and 1979, *The Constitution of Liberty* represents Hayek's mature political thought. Hayek is no longer primarily concerned to refute socialism, whether in its democratic or undemocratic forms, but turns his attention to the characteristic corruptions of liberal society.

Hayek was uncompromising in his readiness to limit the meddling of politicians. His ideal was indeed mid-19th century England: he was suspicious even of J. S. Mill's egalitarian tendencies, though he edited Mill's correspondence with Harriet Taylor. He abhorred what he called "weasel words", widely used by conservatives as well as social democrats, such as "social justice". All attempts to redistribute wealth were not merely inimical to the market, but to civil society itself.

In 1962 Hayek returned to Europe, this time to Freiburg in Germany, where he held a chair of economics until his semi-retirement in 1969. By this time his following around the world had grown. In Germany he had enjoyed considerable respect since Ludwig Erhard rose to power in 1948; he was close to the *Ordo* circle of liberal economists and jurists who influenced the Federal Republic's Basic Law. But Hayek always treated the "social market" as a propaganda tool for free competition.

When in 1974 Hayek was awarded the Nobel Prize for Economics, jointly with his old opponent Gunnar Myrdal, it was clear that the *enfant terrible* of the profession had become one of its grand old men. Another triumph was the election of Mrs Thatcher's government, which was strongly influenced by think tanks in which Hayek had played an important role, above all the Institute of Economic Affairs and later also the Adam Smith Institute. Hayek played no part in the British government, but he was treated with great respect and his books were once again quoted with respect. His bold ideas on the denationalisation of money were not taken up, but his strong views on inflation undoubtedly strengthened the government's resolve not to reflate the economy during the recession of the early 1980s. In 1984, at Mrs Thatcher's instigation, Hayek was made a Companion of Honour.

Hayek's last years were marred by illness, but he was able to finish *The Fatal Conceit*, his last book. He lived to see the collapse of communism in eastern Europe, and only in his final year or two did he lose touch with events. Hayek was twice married: to Hella von Priesch (died 1960), by whom he had a son and a daughter, and to Helene Bitterlich. His second wife and his children survive him.

APPRECIATION

FRIEDRICH Hayek is publicly known as the arch-critic of Keynesianism, the inspirer of the foundation of the Institute of Economic Affairs and latterly as the arch-guru of Thatcherite economics. These facets of his long life are enough to assure him a place in British political history.

His important lesson that the market performs an important coordinating function and is the most efficient way of transmitting economic information is perhaps rather reluctantly accepted across the British political spectrum. Indeed, a recent survey of 1,000 economists' opinions conducted by the IEA itself displays some surprisingly strong antipathy towards Hayek's general position.

The explanation may lie in the fact that in this country we lack both the imagination and experience to know what it is like to live under a harsh collectivist regime. Hayek is now more than required reading in eastern Europe: his market philosophy is the template for practical reforms. Let us hope that his disciples there also appreciate his warning that markets only survive as spontaneous institutions and cannot be designed and imposed by governments.

Such is time lag between ideas and their popular absorption (and distortion) that it is nearly 50 years ago since Hayek published *The Road to Serfdom*. Like many others, I read it on active service, in my case, I think, on the last convoy to Murmansk. With the war effort at its height and Japan and Germany on the defensive, it was easy to believe that war-time planning should be the model for the future, and that the depression years of the 1930s were the inevitable manifestation of capitalist failure. Then along comes an unknown Austrian professor who stops us in our tracks. The war-time analogy, he argues, is wholly false. In war there is a consensus of aim, survival, and total war requires complete central control of the means of production. The very purpose of enduring war-time dictatorship is to restore the individual to right to make his/her own decisions, a right which would be destroyed by a centrally planned economy. No such economy can generate the information required to reflect the diversity of individual choices. Even if the democratic process supports intervention in the belief that

there are sufficient aims held in common those who operate the controls have a vested interest in their retention and proliferation. Planned economies are not only inefficient but morally corrupting.

One interesting result, partly attributable to Hayek's stirring piece of *ex cathedra* was that it reinforced a growing split between Keynesian liberals and Keynesian socialists. Liberals like Lionel Robbins and John Jewkes, war-time civil servants, called on their own experience to back Hayek's position. More interesting perhaps are Keynes's own views. Not long after the book's appearance he wrote to Hayek: "Morally and philosophically I find myself in agreement with virtually the whole of it; and not only in agreement with it, but deeply moved agreement." Keynes was clearly more impressed by the moral dilemma raised by Hayek rather than by the technical issue as to whether planning would work. There is another interesting link between them at this time. In Keynes's famous war-time plan to compensate those paying high levels of income tax by post-war credits, it is recommended that the credits should be partly financed by a capital levy on those who had made large capital gains during the war. Keynes credited Hayek with this proposal.

Current extreme libertarian writing conveniently forgets that Keynes and Hayek had a certain rapprochement. What of Hayek's man? A close friend of mine who had known Hayek for over 20 years, once plucked up the courage to write to him: "Dear Fritz". He received a severe reproof.

In my experience, as his one-time editorial assistant at LSE, I found him courteous and helpful, but, though I met him from time to time over the years, I never felt that I got to know him any better. He was more forthcoming in correspondence. I have heard those who must have been much closer to him say much the same. At least you knew where you were with him, and one had no right to expect any more from such a towering intellectual figure.

Sir Alan Peacock, Executive director of the David Hume Institute, Edinburgh, and honorary research professor in public finance at Heriot-Watt University.

JIM JOEL

H. J. "Jim" Joel, race horse owner, breeder and member of the Jockey Club died on March 23 aged 97. He was born on September 4, 1894.

JIM Joel was a pillar of the racing establishment, albeit a most unassuming one, and was one of the last links, through family connection, with the more spacious and sporting Edwardian era of the Turf. That connection was reinforced by the fact that, with Edward VII (when Prince of Wales), Joel had the rare distinction of having owned both a winner of the Derby and of the Grand National.

Royal Palace, who had also won the Two Thousand Guineas in 1957, was his Derby triumph, trained by the late Sir Noel Murless and ridden by the Australian champion George Moore. He had bred the colt, a descendant of Picture Play, winner of the One Thousand Guineas in 1944, when she provided Joel with his first Classic success.

Joel was much admired for his sporting but unfashionable decision to keep his Derby winner in training as a four-year-old instead of following the standard modern practice of hustling him away to stud lest lack of subsequent success should devalue his worth as a stallion. The policy was both justified and richly rewarded when Royal Palace added the Coronation Cup, the Eclipse Stakes, and the King George and Queen Elizabeth Stakes to his former triumphs, netting a prize money total of £166,063.

There was no less admiration of this popular owner because of his staunch and enthusiastic support of National Hunt racing. The leading Flat owners are not generally noted for their support of the winter game. Joel's enthusiasm brought many rewards and his crowning moment came when Maori Venture won the Seagram Grand National in 1987.

The famous racing colours of "black, scarlet cap", were first made known on every racecourse in the land by Joel's father, Jack Barnato Joel, who had owned no fewer than eleven Classic winners and who, with his brother Solly, was a dominant and distinguished figure on the turf in the early years of this century. Their father (Jim Joel's grandfather) had kept the King of Prussia public house in the East End of London. It yielded only a bare living and, in their early twenties, and relatively poor, the brothers sailed for South Africa and the Kimberley diamond fields in order to join an elder brother, Woolf, and their uncle Barnato.

Barnato (originally Barnett



Jim Joel with Grand National winner Maori Venture.

Isaac: his adopted name derived from his early days on the music halls) became, with Cecil Rhodes, one of the most influential and respected figures in the diamond industry. Under his guidance and with their own financial acumen, the brothers were millionaires before they were 30 and extended their influence beyond diamond mines to many other businesses in South Africa including breweries and collieries. Barney Barnato, however, was drowned at sea in 1897, and two years later the elder brother was murdered. So, in 1899, Solly took over leadership of their huge enterprises, while Jack returned to England to represent their companies' interests in the City — and to pursue his Turf career.

This began in 1900, and seven years later he bought, from the executors of Sir Blundell Maple, the furniture store magnate, the Chidwick Bury Stud near St Albans, which he modernised.

Harry Joel Joel, later always to be known as Jim, was born in London, only son of J. B. Joel. He was educated at Malvern, and served in France during the 1914-18 War with the 15th Hussars. When his

father died in 1940, he inherited £5 million and the Chidwick Bury Stud. Despite the earlier modernisation, the stud had declined since the days when such Derby winners as Sunstar and Hummer were foaled, and Joel had to spend a great deal of money to bring it, once again, up-to-date.

The stud showed an early return on investment when the homebred Picture Play won a wartime One Thousand Guineas in 1944, ridden by Charlie Elliott and saddled by Joel's private trainer, J. E. Watts at Foxhill. Picture Play traced to a mare called Absurdity who had bred two Classic winners for her owner's father. When Picture Play was retired to the paddocks at Chidwick Bury, she herself became an outstanding broodmare. Of her direct descendants, three became Classic winners for her owner.

A further three were placed in various Classics: West Side Story, beaten by only inches for the 1962 Oaks by the French-trained Monade, but the best filly of that year in both England and Ireland; Phono Flash, runner-up in the One Thousand Guineas, 1968; and Welsh Pageant, third the following

year in the Two Thousand Guineas, apart from Picture Play's produce, the Chidwick Bury Stud provided many other first-class horses and other Classic race winners for Joel.

Among the latter was Connaught who, in 1968, came near to giving him a second Derby in succession. Approaching the final furlong Connaught looked unbeatable, but was cut down by the acceleration of Sir Ivor, ridden by Lester Piggott. Major Portion was another homebred Classic runner-up, being beaten in the 1958 Two Thousand Guineas by Palf Mail, carrying the colours of H.M. The Queen. Later in the St James's Palace Stakes Major Portion reversed the placings.

The achievements of Joel as a breeder were complemented by those of horses he bought. He possessed keen judgement in the sale ring. Henry the Seventh, secured for 3,500 guineas at Newmarket Sales is a good example. Trained by Bill Elsey in Yorkshire, Henry the Seventh won four races in 1961; then, the following season, he took the Zetland Gold Cup, the Rous Memorial Stakes and the Eclipse Stakes. Another purchase led to Predominate becoming, at an age when most

Flat horses have retired, the most popular runner to carry the Joel colours.

Predominate was bought for huddling; but despite having won over obstacles, he patently disliked them, so was put back to Flat racing. Trained by Ted Leader, Predominate then proceeded, between 1958 and 1960, to win the 2m 3f Goodwood Stakes three years in a row, then the following season was victorious in the even longer-distanced Goodwood Cup. This he did at the grand old age of nine.

Joel had many trainers, of which the most successful on the Flat were Ted Leader, Sir Noel Murless and Henry Cecil. Over the jumps Bob Turnell and Josh Gifford served him extremely well. And Bob's son Andy trained his Grand National hero, Maori Venture. A further jumps trainer was Tim Thomson Jones who, only a fortnight ago, saddled Keep Talking to win the National Hunt Chase at Cheltenham, Joel's final winner.

The involvement in National Hunt racing was on a smaller scale than breeding for and owning on the Flat, but, nonetheless, pursued with immense enthusiasm. In 1989, Josh Gifford bid a record 68,000 guineas on the owner's behalf for an untied jumper at the Doncaster Sales. Most of Joel's hurdlers and chasers were purchased, including Maori Venture and the Imperial Cup winner, Sir Thopas. But a sad story concerns one of the most promising jumpers Joel himself bred.

This was Buona Note, out of his broodmare Jenny Lind, who was a daughter of Progne who had won the Ebor Handicap for Joel in 1947. After six victories in a row, and looking to be an ideal Cheltenham Gold Cup candidate, Buona Note was killed in the Great Yorkshire Chase at Doncaster in 1965 when he failed to rise to a fence.

Even sadder was the occasion in 1986 when, because through failing eyesight Joel could no longer see sufficiently to manage or enjoy matters at Chidwick Bury, there was a dispersal sale at Newmarket of his 25 broodmares and fillies in training. This realised some £4 million, with Fairy Footsteps making the top price of 720,000 guineas. As the late Sir Noel Murless commented at the time, it was "the end of an era".

Jim Joel's quiet, unassuming manner earned him many friends in racing, the admiration of the public because there was never a breath of suspicion about the running of his horses, and the immense respect of his trainers and jockeys to whom he was unfailingly loyal.

LIVES REMEMBERED

A COLLECTION of 180 obituaries from the 900 or so published on this page during 1991 has been produced in book form, edited by David Heenan and John Higgins, under the title *Lives Remembered*. *Lives Remembered*, fully illustrated and with a foreword by Lord Aunan, is available at £19.95 from the Bletchley Press, 10, Station Road, Pangbourne, Berks. RG7 6AN (Tel. 0235 850110. Fax 0734 943336).

March 25 ON THIS DAY 1889



The Woolwich Free Ferry was the last achievement of the Metropolitan Board of Works which since its inception in 1855 had been responsible for many projects, notably the building of the Albert and Victoria embankments and the construction of a drainage system of 120 square miles. The board's successor, London County Council, came into operation a few days before the opening ceremony.

WOOLWICH FREE FERRY

Saturday was a grand gala day at Woolwich, the occasion being the opening of the free ferry to unite North and South Woolwich — the first constructed in the metropolitan district. The ceremony was performed by the London County Council — the first public function they have undertaken. Lord Rosebery, Lord Lingen, and other members of the Council were received at the Arsenal Railway Station by the chairman of the Woolwich Local Board and most of the members, also by the chairman and members of the Plumstead District Board, and others. Having entered open carriages, accompanied by Colonel Hughes, MP for Woolwich, they waited while the boys of the Marine Society from the Warspite, the friendly societies, and the trade societies filed past with their emblems, bands and banners. A number of open carriages, with the members of the local boards and different committees, followed, and then the members of the Council in their carriages came next.

The streets through which the procession, which was over half a mile in length, passed were decorated after the style adopted in London on Lord Mayor's Day. The streets were lined with Volunteers, in which the 2d Kent (Plumstead) Artil-

lery, the 3d Kent (Royal Arsenal) Artillery and the 3d Kent (Royal Arsenal) Rifles took part, and as the procession passed it was cheered by immense crowds of spectators.

On reaching the landing-stage, at the south side, which is in the centre of the town, two of the County Council carriages, with pairs, were driven direct on board the ferry steamer Gordon, which, together with three Volunteer bands and about 500 ladies and gentlemen, proceeded on her first trip across the river.

The passage across was made in three and a half minutes. The piers on each side are exactly similar, having two carriage ways in the centre and gangways on either side for foot passengers. The outer ends rest upon loading pontoons, which rise and fall with the tide; but although there is a difference of 20 feet between high and low water, the length of the piers is such as to obviate any inconvenient gradient.

The horses and carriages occupy the upper deck on board the steamer, to reach which iron brows, worked by hydraulic power, are let down into the openings cut in the bulkheads. At North Woolwich, most of the party disembarked, together with the two carriages and horses, and were met by more friendly societies in full regalia, a band of music, and a steam fire engine from the Bechtel Gas Works, manned and decorated.

After about half an hour's stay the whole were again on board the Gordon, which proceeded to South Woolwich, when the whole company landed and proceeded to take up their positions in the procession. When Lord Rosebery had proceeded some distance along the approach road, he halted at a spot opposite the stand which had been erected to accommodate about 800 of the residents, and standing up in his carriage, proclaimed the ferry open free for ever. This announcement evoked a ringing cheer.







Botham and Gooch walk on

# THE TIMES BUSINESS

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WEDNESDAY MARCH 25 1992

BUSINESS EDITOR JOHN BELL

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● RACING 27  
● SPORT 26-30

## TODAY IN BUSINESS

### POLE POSITION



Official figures may suggest otherwise, but Vauxhall is on the verge of overtaking Ford as Britain's biggest new car manufacturer, ending a 15-year sequence.

### POOR IMAGE

Anthony Stoddard quit as chief executive of Shandwick, the public relations group that lost £1.4 million last year.

### WATER AND WINE



Giovanni Agnelli walks away with FF2.6 billion and the Chateau Margaux vineyards as Nestlé takes control of Perrier.

### DEFENCE COSTS

Invergordon Distillers incurred costs of £4.2 million in its successful fight against a takeover bid by Whyte & Mackay.

### MOVE UPMARKET



The Halifax lost market share but increased profits by 6 per cent to £62.8 million, even though bad debts cost £22.9 million.

### THE POUND

US dollar 1.7188 (-0.0015)  
German mark 2.8635 (-0.0011)  
Exchange Index 90.0 (same)

### STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share 1926.2 (+15.4)  
FT-SE 100 2458.7 (+17.7)  
New York Dow Jones 3273.26 (+1.12)  
Tokyo Nikkei Avge 19891.57 (-348.03)

### INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base 10 1/8%  
3-month Interbank 10 1/8%  
3-month eligible bills 10 1/8%  
US: Prime Rate 6 1/2%  
Federal Funds 3 1/4%  
3-month Treasury Bills 4.06-4.05%  
30-year bonds 9 3/4%  
100-year 10 1/8%

### CURRENCIES

London: New York: £ \$1.7188  
C: DM2.8635  
C: Sfr2.8635  
C: FF6.4425  
C: Yen223.89  
C: Index 90.0  
C: ECU 10.71334  
C: ECU 10.71334  
C: ECU 10.71334

### GOLD

London: AM 337.75 pm 338.40  
C: 338.40-339.50 (187.00)  
New York: COMEX 338.45-338.95

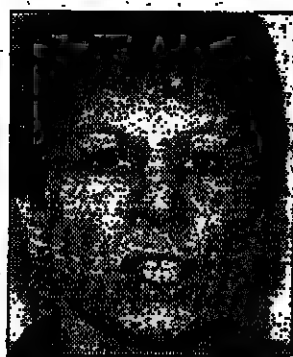
### NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (May) \$17.80 bbl (\$17.80)

### RETAIL PRICES

RPI: 136.3 February (1987=100)  
Denotes midday trading price

## Third of claims find favour with insurance ombudsman



Saunders: praised

By LINDSAY COOK  
MONEY EDITOR

THIS insurance ombudsman received a "tidal wave of applications" last year, with the number of cases handled rising 64 per cent to 4,334 and 40,900 enquiries dealt with. In about a third of cases, Dr Julian Farrand found for the policyholder in some way and made awards totalling £5 million.

Life policy claims, the largest category in the 2,839 cases completed, reached 809 (510), while more than a third of the claims were successful.

Dr Farrand said. Motor claims totalled 568 (346) and buildings insurance and contents cases were 383 and 341 respectively.

The largest individual payment was £550,000 to the son of a woman who died in Kenya eight years after taking out term insurance. The life company suspected that she was not dead and refused to pay out even though a private investigator had confirmed that she had had a stroke and died. The claimant also received £250,000 from another insurer. The first insurance company had also argued that the woman had taken

the £9,000 a year ten-year term policy out in order to pay for inheritance tax liabilities but that these were not in evidence when she died.

Dr Farrand decided that the company would not have refunded premiums had the woman approached it after eight years asking for a refund because her tax liabilities were less than expected and therefore the son should receive payment. The ombudsman is restricted to making awards up to £100,000. Above that he can make a recommendation but the insurance company is not bound by such an award.

The smallest successful claim was "a grovelling apology" from an insurance company for the way it handled a policy. In cash terms, the smallest award was £5.

The fact that two thirds of decisions favoured insurers paid tribute to the "competent and careful complaints procedures developed during the past decade since the bureau was created," Dr Farrand said. There was a claim for compensation for 93lb of meat and fowl, which had defrosted when a freezer compartment broke down. The manufacturer told the ombuds-

man's bureau, of which Barbara Saunders is chairman, that the freezer section would only take 42.4lb of food. The claim failed for "greedy exaggeration."

Claims upheld included a policyholder who dropped and broke his spectacles on his patio. The insurance company had said that the patio was not part of the private dwelling or outbuildings at the address of the property insured. A motorist who left the keys in his car when he went back into the house to get something he had forgotten failed in his stolen car claim.

## Pall Mall joint venture is unwound

# P&O payout held despite profits fall

By MATTHEW BOND

SHARES in the Peninsular and Orient Steam Navigation Company jumped 32p to 416p after the shipping to property group said it was maintaining its dividend, had successfully unwound a £500 million property joint venture and that its chairman and managing director were investing £1.5 million to raise their personal stakes in the company.

"I suppose we're putting our money where our mouth is," said Lord Sterling, chairman of P&O, after he and Bruce MacPhail had bought 375,000 shares between them in the wake of a 17 per cent fall in 1991 pre-tax profits to £217 million.

The company is proposing to amend an 89-year-old restriction in its royal charter that prevents more than 25 per cent of its shares being owned by overseas investors, originally incorporated for reasons of national defence. Lord Sterling said P&O had formally assured the government that its fleet would still be available for the defence of the realm.

The final dividend stays at 17p, despite the impact of the recession and the Gulf war, which resulted in a £20 mil-

lion exceptional item that reflected the higher costs and lower margins of rapidly relocating cruise liners from the Mediterranean to the Caribbean. The unchanged total dividend of 30.5p was covered by earnings of 31p a share, down from 40.4p.

The most significant news was the unwinding of Pall Mall Properties, the joint venture company with Elliott Bernard's Chelsfield group, which took over Laing Properties for £492 million in 1990. The unwinding got the final go-ahead after it was confirmed that Chelsfield had raised £65 million of new equity and £162 million of medium- to long-term bank finance to enable the transaction to proceed.

Chelsfield's new investors include British Land, Hambros Group, M&G and the Bank of East Asia, the latter being co-manager of the BZW-sponsored private placing. P&O and Mr Bernard are each subscribing for £10 million of new Chelsfield shares. Yesterday, Mr Bernard recommended himself to taking Chelsfield public within a year.

Under the complex terms of the deal, P&O will pay Chelsfield £50.2 million for its 50 per cent interest in Pall Mall. Before that, Chelsfield

will pay £181 million for a portfolio of British properties that accounts for about 40 per cent of Laing's domestic portfolio. Chelsfield will also pay £33 million for its share of a new joint venture with P&O, Laing Properties Inc, that will acquire Laing's American properties — primarily 6,700 rented garden apartments — from Pall Mall.

As a result of these transactions, Pall Mall will be 100 per cent owned by P&O and own 60 per cent of Laing's British properties and all its Canadian properties, collectively valued at about £570 million. Lord Sterling was "delighted" with the Laing acquisition, despite the fact that P&O's share of Pall Mall's £44.8 million pre-tax loss in 1991 pushed house-building, construction and development to a £20.3 million loss. He said Laing's portfolio fell only £15 million below acquisition cost.

With £525 million of Pall Mall debt on P&O's balance sheet, P&O's total borrowings will rise to £1.6 billion and gearing to 70 per cent.

Lord Sterling said gearing would be reduced by sales from the unified investment portfolio and from reduced capital expenditure.

Comment, page 21

## ADT results cause confusion

By JONATHAN FRYNN

CITY analysts reacted with anger and confusion to the publication late yesterday afternoon of the 1991 results of ADT, the security and car auction group chaired by Michael Ashcroft. The figures were released in London only half an hour before the market closed and company representatives were not available for comment, although a meeting with New York analysts had been arranged for 2.30pm, local time.

One analyst said that the figures "raised more questions than they answered". Mr Ashcroft has long been regarded as one of the last of the Eighties' breed of corporate buccanniers by a suspi-

cious City and has been accused of going out of his way to avoid establishing channels of communication with his UK investors.

However, the reaction was not all negative. Analysts welcomed the improved level of disclosure in the figures and the appointment of three more non-executive directors. The shares rose 15p to 515p before the announcement of the figures.

Pre-tax profits for the year to end-December were 44 per cent down at £137 million, slightly below expectations, but it was the debt-laden balance sheet that attracted the attention of the market.

Dividend payments were suspended at the interim

stage as part of the debt reduction drive and the company confirmed yesterday that they would not recommend before the release of the 1992 results.

Mr Ashcroft said yesterday in a statement that "ADT's security services and auctions businesses have performed well against the background of the recession."

He added that the objectives for 1992 were to concentrate resources on the core operations. He said trading for the year in both the core businesses had started well and that an advance in primary earnings per share was expected in 1992. ADT's primary earnings fell 46 per cent last year to \$1.04 per share.

## Morse dismounts his black horse

By NEIL BENVENISTE  
BANKING CORRESPONDENT

THE leadership of Lloyds, Britain's most profitable bank, has been thrown into confusion by its announcement that Sir Jeremy Morse, the chairman, will retire early next year.

He is being replaced by Sir Robin Ibb, one of the deputy chairmen. But Sir Robin will be 66 next month, two and a half years older than Sir Jeremy, and says he is unlikely to stay in the post more than three years.

The bank also announced that Sir David Walker, chairman of the Securities and Investments Board, would join the bank as deputy chairman. Analysts tipped him to become chairman after Sir Robin, but Sir David is also said to be a favourite to be appointed governor of the Bank of England.



Morse: gentle

terday lamented the departure of Sir Jeremy, who has been one of Lloyds' longest-serving and most successful chairmen.

Sir Jeremy joined Lloyds from the Bank of England in 1975 and became chairman two years later. In the past 15 years he has steered the bank through the collapse of the Third World debt market,

which at one stage threatened the bank's existence, and at home through two deep recessions. Most recently, however, his attempts to buy Midland Bank have so far come to nothing.

Since 1983 Lloyds has been dominated by the relationship between Sir Jeremy and Brian Pittman, the chief executive. The two present an absolute contrast; Sir Jeremy is one of the most gentle men in the City and could be mistaken for a senior academic.

Mr Pittman is regarded as the hard man of British banking, and never flinches from selling businesses or shedding staff to improve Lloyds' efficiency.

Sir Jeremy has always made it clear that he wanted to retire in his early Sixties since he believes his father continued to work too late in life. He will remain chancellor of Bristol university and

warden of Winchester School.

Sir Robin said yesterday that he would remain as chairman until the board found "an appropriate successor", but said he would be surprised to stay after he was 70. "The appointment has come as a pleasant surprise."

Lloyds would remain much the same under his chairmanship he said, but added that he would not undertake as much international banking diplomacy as Sir Jeremy. Sir Robin was a director of ICI for many years, but in 1980 he was appointed head of the government's central policy review staff. Following that he reported to the government on the efficiency of the Civil Service and in 1988 produced "The Next Steps" — a proposal for civil service reform that has since been largely adopted.

Comment, page 21

## Ottawa involved in O&Y talks

FROM JOHN BOST  
IN OTTAWA

THE federal Canadian and provincial Ontario governments are involved in talks on restructuring Olympia & York's debt, but any help will fall far short of a bailout, a senior minister said.

Don Mazankowski, finance minister, confirmed that the governments might provide some kind of financial guarantees against the sale of O&Y assets. Mr Mazankowski, answering questions in the Canadian parliament, said the discussions had centred on helping the Toronto-based property and resources-development firm — one of Canada's largest private companies — restructure its debt of more than C\$10 billion (£5 billion).

Outside parliament, Mr Mazankowski said the talks began towards the end of last week, but there had been some earlier "representations". Asked whether the federal government in Ottawa might become involved in a bailout, he said that the aim was "to stabilise the situation and to try to avert any disruption". He added: "That is our goal, and that is not a bailout."

Floyd Laughren, the treasurer of Ontario, also confirmed that the province's socialist government was participating in the O&Y discussions. The company, he explained, was "important" to Ontario.

O&Y is believed to be looking for buyers for four office buildings in Toronto, valued at an estimated C\$2 billion. Reports yesterday said it had struck a deal to sell or refinance one, the C\$300 million Exchange Tower.



Honouring commitments: Mick Newmarch, chief executive of Prudential

## Pru abandons brokers

By OUR BANKING CORRESPONDENT

THE Prudential Corporation is closing its general insurance broker business at a cost of 400 jobs and £146 million after heavy losses.

The move means that 160,000 Prudential customers who bought their insurance through 4,000 insurance brokers will be forced to look elsewhere when they renew their policies. Mick Newmarch, the chief executive, said that the group was setting aside reserves to honour existing policies and future claims.

The business, based in Welwyn Garden City, Hertfordshire, lost £77 million last year due to rising theft, fire and subsidence claims. The closure costs are being offset by tax relief and investment returns worth £93 million.

Mr Newmarch said that the business was unable to charge premiums high enough to return it to profits. He said: "There is a fiercely competitive market and no rational pricing out there." He added, however, that the group was still committed to its direct sales general insurance business, which lost £11 million.

The decision is part of a growing move by insurers to reduce their exposure to loss-making home and motor business. Legal & General

has cut back its general business by buying reinsurance in the London market. The Prudential results for 1991 showed a 9 per cent gain in pre-tax profits to £267 million due to last year's disposal of its estate agencies. The final dividend was increased to 7.2p to make 11p for the year, up 7 per cent. Profit rose 5 per cent in the Prudential's life insurance business to

£385 million, while overall general insurance losses fell by £36 million to £149 million. That was countered by a £70 million fall in investment gains £20 million.

The best performer was Jackson National, the American subsidiary, where profits more than doubled to \$112 million.

Tempos, page 20

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THE ENERGY TO SUCCEED



## Geest to sell its stake in Macfish

BY JONATHAN PHRYN

THE future of the troubled British fish-processing industry was thrown into uncertainty yesterday when Geest, the fresh food group, announced that it is to dispose of its 50 per cent stake in Macfish, its fish-processing joint venture with Associated Fisheries.

David Sugden, the chief executive of Geest, said the decision had been made in the light of continuing problems with fish supplies caused by overfishing.

He said that Geest could not justify the necessary investment in the subsidiary given its heavy capital expenditure programmes for its core fresh fruit and prepared food operations.

Geest entered fish processing in 1987 and merged its fish interests with Associated Fisheries in 1990. Macfish made a marginal profit last year, Mr Sugden said, compared with heavy losses in the late Eighties.

Geest has provided £5.25 million below the line against the cost of withdrawal from the sector in its 1991 accounts.

A statement from the company said that it intended to seek "an orderly route to withdraw from its investment in Macfish". But it added that "no firm decisions have been taken as to the timing or nature of this withdrawal".

Associated Fisheries said that it might also be forced to withdraw from Macfish as a result of Geest's decision. It is to make an extraordinary provision of £5.5 million against its 1991 profits and loss account, which is due to be published on April 2.

Geest's pre-tax profits for the year to December 28 rose by 6 per cent to £26.2 million on turnover up by 5 per cent to £626 million. A final 4.3p dividend makes 7.9p for the year, a 13 per cent increase.

The strongest performer was the food preparation division, which increased trading profits from £3.87 million to £5.4 million.

Geest said that its project to set up its own banana plantation in Costa Rica was on schedule and on budget and was expected to be in production by early 1993.

The company added that the difficult economic conditions that it encountered last year had persisted in 1992 and that there was no immediate sign of an upturn in its main markets.

## Bad debts fail to halt a 6% rise at Halifax

BY LINDSAY COOK, MONEY EDITOR

HALIFAX Building Society increased its pre-tax profits 6 per cent to £628 million in the year to end-January despite provisions for bad debts of £229 million.

The largest mortgage lender lost market share as net advances fell 26 per cent to £3.9 billion last year. The Abbey National lent £3.7 billion. Halifax now has 14 per cent of the total mortgage market, against 16 per cent in 1990, and its retail receipts fell to £4.6 billion (£5.2 billion).

Arrears and repossessions were now falling, having peaked in November, said Jon Foulds, chairman of Halifax. The number of properties held by the society had fallen every month since November as had the number of new properties being repossessed said Mr Foulds.

Of mortgage rescue schemes, he added: "Far more people will be helped by our own efforts to keep them as borrowers than by converting them to tenants. Better counselling, shared ownership schemes and the very important direct payment of DSS benefit will all keep down the number of repossessions."

The society allocated an extra £100,000 to counselling

last year and will spend another £350,000 this year. A provision of £191 million was made for residential mortgages, £16 million for other advances secured on land and £22 million for unsecured loans last year. Halifax has now made provisions of more than 13p for every pound lent as unsecured loans, but Mr Foulds said it intended to stick with the business now it had learned how to handle such loans.

The estate agency operating loss fell from £18.3 million to £6.6 million. The cost/income ratio was reduced to 43.6 per cent (48.5 per cent). The society's gross capital ratio improved from 5.09 per cent to 5.65 per cent and free capital increased from 4.25 per cent to 4.86 per cent. Assets grew 8.4 per cent to £58.7 billion.

Building societies made net mortgage commitments of £2.7 billion in February – an increase of 20 per cent on January. The figure was still lower than February last year, when bad weather and the Gulf war affected the mortgage market. Gross lending, at £2.4 billion, was down on both the January figure and a year ago. Savings fell to £145 million from £293 million in January.

## Shares at Kwik Save and Hillsdown slip

BY OUR CITY STAFF

KWIK Save, the discount supermarket group, and Hillsdown Holdings, the food-processing group run by Sir Harry Solomon, saw their shares fall yesterday after the resignations of their finance directors.

Simon Moffat, Kwik Save's group finance director, has stepped down less than five weeks before the company unveils its interim results. He moves to Hillsdown to take over as finance director from Kevin O'Sullivan. The City reacted coldly to the news.

Shares in Kwik Save fell 8p to 536p. Hillsdown fell 4p to 172p.

Mr Moffat's resignation comes as part of a management shake-up ahead of the impending retirement of Frederick Mills, the deputy managing director. John Murphy, the chairman and chief executive of Coleman's, a subsidiary of Kwik Save, is to become a deputy managing director in addition to Mr Mills.

In November, Kwik Save announced record pre-tax profits of £102 million, up 19 per cent, on the back of an ambitious expansion programme. Mr Moffat, who has worked for Grand Metropolitan and Unilever, takes up his appointment in June.

The City has been wary of Hillsdown since the company's unexpected £281 million rights issue in October sent shares spiralling. A bear raid early last year sent the company's share price tumbling 30 per cent in two days.

Two weeks ago, Hillsdown reported pre-tax profits down 2.3 per cent at £187 million for 1991 in the wake of a sharp decline in poultry prices. The company is now Britain's fourth largest chicken producer.



Traumatic turnaround: Peter Gummer, who announced Shandwick's loss

Shares languish as Gummer confirms worst

## Shandwick storm brings losses and resignation

BY JON ASHWORTH

JUST before Christmas, Peter Gummer, chairman of Shandwick, the world's biggest public relations company, gave warning of inclement weather ahead. The storm broke with a vengeance yesterday, when pre-tax losses of £1.4 million for the 15 months to last October were reported and Antony Stoddard, the chief executive, announced his resignation.

The loss, a dramatic drop from a £2.1 million pre-tax profit last time, is even worse than Mr Gummer predicted in December. Then, his warning of an expected £1 million loss left the City reeling and cut Shandwick's share price in half. The shares tumbled from 125p to 52p, and are now languishing at 29p.

Mr Gummer, whose brother, John, is agriculture minister, does not expect business to pick up this year, but feels he has done all he can to get the company in shape.

Mr Stoddard is leaving Shandwick as part of a management reshuffle. However, he will stay on as a

consultant for the next 12 months. A report by Ernst & Young, the accountant, shows Shandwick's underlying business is sound, and that improvement is just a matter of time. Fee income at £122 million has remained largely constant, despite a poor showing in America, which accounts for 50 per cent of the group's operating revenue.

In December, Mr Gummer said: "We are clearing the decks for some fairly rough weather. This will enable us to go forward confidently through the economic difficulties which lie ahead."

After expanding rapidly during the Eighties, Shandwick now faces the difficult task of cutting jobs. Redundancies have cost £5.4 million, with staff numbers falling from 2,150 last year to 1,960.

The company revealed in December that "several million" pounds had been wasted through chasing business with international clients that came to nothing. The amounts were re-

vealed yesterday: £3.8 million on marketing and other costs associated with delay or cancellation of potential contracts, and £1.1 million in respect of abortive acquisitions and joint ventures.

Shandwick faces another £3 million bill this year in interest and fees to its banks and financial advisers. The final dividend has been cut from an expected 2.36p to just 1.18p, making 3.54p for the 15 months.

If December was a bad month, January was even worse. Just three weeks after Mr Gummer broke the bad news to a petulant City, Shandwick parted company with Morgan Grenfell, its merchant bank, and SG Warburg Securities, its stockbroker, after a six-year association.

The manner of the parting did little to calm shareholders' nerves. Both sides insisted that they had initiated the break.

Lazard Brothers and Barclays de Zoete Wedd were subsequently appointed as the new advisers to Shandwick.

### BUSINESS ROUNDUP

## Laporte unwinds its venture with Solvay

LAPOORTE, the chemicals group, has unwound its joint venture arrangement with Belgium's Solvay in a move that improves gearing and allows Laporte to control its own destiny. Laporte will exchange its half interest in hydrogen peroxide businesses that are jointly owned with Solvay through the Interlox venture for full ownership of the speciality peroxide chemicals businesses. Solvay will no longer be a 25 per cent shareholder in Laporte after part of its holding is cancelled and the rest of the stake placed among institutions. Laporte announced yesterday that it was buying Rockwood, an American private company that has processing operations on the East and West coasts of America, for \$60 million. Pre-tax profits of Laporte in the year ended December 29 eased from £103 million to £97.2 million on a turnover of £615.5 million (£649.3 million). The final dividend rises to 12.1p (11.4p) a share, making 18.9p (17.8p) a share for the year.

Tempos, page 20

## UK liquidity improves

THE financial health of Britain's large companies has improved to close to the level seen in the third quarter of 1987, the quarter of the stock market crash, government figures show. The improvement, confirmed in the company liquidity data to the end of the fourth quarter last year, suggests the corporate sector is well placed to take advantage of any economic recovery. The liquidity ratio expresses assets as a ratio of current liabilities. The ratio for all large industrial and commercial companies was 124 in the final quarter of 1991, up from 118 the previous quarter.

## Brake raises payout

BRAKE Bros, the expanding frozen foods group, largely withstood the effects of recession and the disruption caused by a fire at Hemsworth, Yorkshire, in the year ended December. Pre-tax profits rose from £14.9 million to £15.4 million. Sales advanced 14.1 per cent to £223 million, or by 7.3 per cent after excluding acquisitions, and the final dividend rises from 3.75p to 4.1p a share, making 5.75p (5.25p) for the year. Brake spent £12.8 million on capital expenditure, excluding acquisitions, which included £2.6 million associated with cold stores and central distribution facilities in Somerset and Herefordshire.

## Esso profits advance

SOFT oil prices and pressure on costs constrained Esso UK's pre-tax profits and royalties to £635 million, up 15.9 per cent. Esso's share of North Sea oil output surged 23 per cent during calendar 1991, and gas production rose 31 per cent. That helped lift revenues, including sales at filling stations, by 9.9 per cent to £6.22 billion. Profits after tax and royalties rose by just £7 million to £310 million. Sir Archibald Forster, chairman and chief executive, said the 8.5 per cent return on assets was unsatisfactory but capital spending during 1992 would exceed 1991's £600 million.

## Deadline for banks

SIR Leon Brittan, the EC competition commissioner, will today tell banks that they should have cross-border electronic transfer networks installed by 1996. Sir Leon, whose users charter for small businesses and individuals using banks became known last week, believes that banks can be forced to lower their transaction charges by market forces rather than legislation. Today he will outline the right for a redress procedure against banks for clients not given full advice on transfer charges. He wants an end to double charging, where both the sending and receiving banks get payment.

## Epwin in cash call

EPWIN Group, the USM-quoted maker of uPVC windows and double glazing products, is making a one-for-four rights issue at 145p per share to raise £5.4 million. Proceeds will be used to fund expansion. Epwin also announced a 17 per cent fall in pre-tax profits to £2.91 million to end-December, on turnover down 15.6 per cent to £40.3 million. A higher 4.5p final (4.3p), brings an improved total of 6.6p (6.4p).

## Property disposal

ASDA Property Holdings, the residential and commercial property group run by Manny Davidson, has sold a portfolio of residential property to Bradford Property Trust, which is one of Britain's biggest residential landlords. The proceeds of the £38 million sale will be used to reduce ASDA's borrowings and should enable it to pursue its recent policy of adding to its commercial portfolio. The homes are all in the South-East of England where Bradford has about 80 per cent of its 7,000 properties.

## Bridon goes into red

BRIDON is halving its annual dividend after slumping into the red in 1991. The wire and rope maker yesterday reported pre-tax losses of £3.6 million, compared with profits of £10.1 million in the previous 12 months, leaving a deficit of 6.4p a share, against earnings of 14.3p. The final dividend is reduced from 5.5p a share to 1.5p, making 4p for the year, compared with 8p last time.

### COMPANY BRIEFS

**AMBER DAY (Int)**  
Pre-tax: £7.11m (£5.52m)  
Pre-tax: £3.81p (£3.2p)  
Div: 1.1p (0.9p)

**DERWENT VALLEY (Fin)**  
Pre-tax: £281,000  
EPS: 8.1p (EPS: 6.5p)  
Div: 4.5p, mkg 8p (8p)

**EBC GROUP (Fin)**  
Pre-tax: £2.04m (£3.51m)  
EPS: 12.17p (18.99p)  
Div: 4.5p, mkg 8p (8p)

**TAY HOMES (Int)**  
Pre-tax: £1.82m (£2.13m)  
EPS: 5.5p (6.3p)  
Div: 1.2p (1.2p)

**CUSSINS PROPERTY**  
Pre-tax: Loss £365,000  
EPS: 1.9p (56.3p)  
Div: Nil (nil)

**SUNSET & VINE (Int)**  
Pre-tax: £363,000  
EPS: 4.6p (3.0p)  
Div: 1.5p (1.5p)

**ARAN ENERGY (Fin)**  
Pre-tax: £5,000  
EPS: 0.14p (EPS: 0.08p)  
Div: Nil (nil)

**WORCESTER GROUP**  
Pre-tax: £4.52m (£3.55m)  
EPS: 10.4p (9.4p)  
Div: 2.88p, mkg 4.21p

**COLORGRAPHIC (Fin)**  
Pre-tax: Loss £2.33m  
EPS: 12.45p (EPS: 9.09p)  
Div: 0.01p, mkg 0.01p

**BARR & W. ARNOLD TST.**  
Pre-tax: £4.31m (£4.51m)  
EPS: 20.7p (22.6p)  
Div: 7p, mkg 10p (9.75p)

**PENDRAGON (Fin)**  
Pre-tax: £4.73m (£5.07m)  
EPS: 12.1p (15.1p)  
Div: 4p, mkg 8p (5.4p)

**BREDEPO PROPERTIES**  
Pre-tax: Loss £4.5m  
EPS: 13.1p (EPS: 4.3p)  
Div: Nil, mkg nil (2.4p)

**MALLETT (Fin)**  
Pre-tax: £1.12m (£3.66m)  
EPS: 5.96p (17.27p)  
Div: 3p, mkg 4.5p (8p)

Turnover rose to £47.7m (£44.4m), with further gains expected over remainder of year. There was a £4.48m extraordinary charge.

Last time's loss was £238,000. Last time's total dividend was 8.25p. The net asset value fell to 744p (937p) per share.

Turnover fell to £50m (£55.2m). There was an exceptional charge of £885,000. The net asset value slipped to 133p (135p) per share.

Turnover rose to £25.5m (£24.1m). Dwellings sales up 17% to 357. Land bank rose to 4,250 plots, giving over four years' supply.

Final results. Last time's loss was £4.04m. There was a £2.38m extraordinary debit. Turnover fell to £18.4m (£21.8m). NAV: 64p.

Last time's profit was £246,000. Turnover rose to £2.48m (£1.88m). Group is developing sponsorship agreements with multinationals.

All figures are in Irish currency. Last time's profit was £121,000. Revolving credit and standby facility totalling \$187.5m arranged.

Final results. Last time's total dividend was 4.01p. Turnover advanced to £65.2m (£44m). Gearing down by a third to 40%.

Last time's profit was £2.01m. Last time's total dividend was 8.86p. Exceptional debit of £1.1m and £181,000 extraordinary loss.

Final results. Turnover slipped to £229m (£238m). There was an extraordinary debit of £147,000. Gearing down to 32.4% (55.3%).

Turnover fell to £168m (£174m). Decline in new car sales affected profits, but strong performance in after-sales and used cars.

Final results. Last time's profit was £1.58m. There was a £6.52m exceptional loss. The net asset value slipped to £1.96 (£2.10).

Turnover fell to £8.39m (£14.6m). There was an exceptional credit of £860,000. Return to previous profit levels will take time.

## British Steel falls 5p as institutions sell

British Steel's shares fell 5p to 70p as its standing in the City slumped to its lowest level since the shares were floated at 125p in 1988. A total of 17 million shares were traded as the institutions continued reducing their positions after a series of sell recommendations from leading securities houses this week. Smith New Court, the broker, started the ball rolling on Monday by forecasting a cut in the dividend and mounting losses for Europe's biggest steel producer.

Now James Capel, another broker, and Nikko, the Japanese securities house, have jumped on the bandwagon. Capel is predicting full-year losses of more than £100 million and Nikko is believed to be telling its clients that the shares are a sell down to about the 50p level.

At its halfway stage, British Steel shocked the market with a collapse in profits and the warning that it would review the dividend when the final figures were known. The steel market remains depressed with the rising cost of raw materials outstripping any modest price rises. Surprisingly enough, British Steel has been firm of late with the

shares outperforming the rest of the market by about 9 per cent in the past month.

Meanwhile, a better showing by the Conservatives in the opinion polls cheered the City and enabled share prices to make an encouraging rally. Some institutions have taken the view that the recent losses have been overdone and so the bargain-hunters were out in force. The FT-SE 100 index closed just below its best of the day after a hesitant start to trading on Wall Street. It ended 17.7 points up at 2,458.7 with almost 500 million shares changing hands.

Government securities made modest headway, with gains of 4p at the longer end, as investors continued switching from the other European bond markets.

Among the leaders, Glaxo jumped 32p to 814p as one New York securities house began urging its clients to switch from the SmithKline Beecham units, down 20p to £39.20.

Warburg Securities was believed to be a big buyer of Kingfisher, up 14p to 480p. The shares have depressed recently by a series of profit downgradings from several leading firms. Ranks Hovis

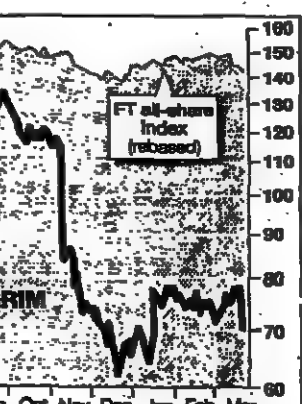
McDonnell eased 1p to 216p as a line of 2.6 million shares went through the market at about the 214p level. The water companies, overhad-

in Wessex, up 12p to 387p, as County NatWest WoodMac, the broker, recommended the shares to its clients. There were also gains for Anglia, 6p to 332p, Northumbria, 2p to 366p, North West, 1p to 339p, Severn Trent, 3p to 321p, South West, 3p to 334p, Thames, 6p to 342p.

The deadline for Redland's £615 million bid for Steetley is midway tomorrow. Redland is expected to win the day with one institution committing a parcel of 3 million Steetley shares. Morgan Stanley, the New York securities house, describes it as the deal of the decade and expects it to enhance Redland's earnings. Rival County NatWest WoodMac continues to urge Steetley shareholders to sell in the market.

owed by the prospect of renationalisation if Labour comes to power, were able to recover from some of their recent losses, helped by a few buyers at low levels. The best rise was

gains for Anglia, 6p to 332p, Northumbria, 2p to 366p, North West, 1p to 339p, Severn Trent, 3p to 321p, South West, 3p to 334p, Thames, 6p to 342p.



Wells, 2p to 361p, and Yorkshire, 5p to 353p. The City breathed a sigh of relief at P&O's decision to maintain the dividend despite a drop in its full-year pre-tax profits from £261.3 million to £217.4 million.

The figures were at the top end of expectations and were struck after an exceptional charge of £20 million was made relating to the impact of the Gulf war on its cruise operations. The group has also decided to unravel Pall Mall, its joint property venture, with Chelsfield, the privately owned developer, which was put together to handle the acquisition of Laing Properties a few years back. The shares responded with a rise of 32p to 416p, after touching 425p.

Laporte, the chemicals group, recovered from an early fall to finish 10p better at 507p after reporting a drop in pre-tax profits of almost £6 million to £97.2 million. The company blamed the setback on a lower contribution from its joint venture Interlox, jointly owned with Solvay of Belgium.

Solvay has now taken control of Interlox and in return, disposed of its 25 per cent

stake in Laporte. MTM fell a further 6p to 77p after two recent profit warnings.

Prudential Corporation slipped 3p to 220p despite increasing pre-tax profits from £244 million to £267 million and increasing the dividend.

However, the group is withdrawing from general insurance broking, which has resulted in an extraordinary charge of £53 million. Mick Newmarch, the chairman, blamed fierce competition and overcapacity for this decision.

Blackbird Toys, the USM toy manufacturer, advanced a further 7p to 82p, making a two-day rise of 17p. Banque Contrade Lausanne, formerly known as Financiere Fransad, has increased its stake in the company from 27 to 29.7 per cent.

This shareholding includes 799,802 shares, or 9.72 per cent, held on behalf of Ideal Loisirs, a French toy distributor.

Smith New Court expects Bluebird to make pre-tax profits of £1.5 million in the current year, against a post-exceptional pre-tax loss of £3.55 million last time.

MICHAEL CLARK

### THE TIMES

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## Bid win raises competition doubts

## EC to investigate Perrier takeover after Nestlé victory

BY WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU, EUROPEAN BUSINESS CORRESPONDENT

THE European Commission is to launch a full enquiry into Nestlé's takeover of Perrier, after the Swiss food group and Banque Indosuez won control of the French water group with an increased bid of FF15.3 billion.

Reto Domeniconi, finance director of Nestlé, told a press conference in Paris that the commission would announce its investigation this week. Shares in Perrier will be suspended during the enquiry, which is expected to focus on competition in the mineral waters market, of which Nestlé and BSN, the French food group, gain a greater share through the deal.

The EC enquiry will also try to disentangle corollary aspects of the deal, such as compensation payments paid to certain shareholders. It is highly unusual for the companies involved, rather than the commission, to announce an investigation. Under EC rules, the commission can take up to four months to investigate a deal.

News of the enquiry followed confirmation of a negotiated peace settlement between the two main protagonists, Nestlé, where Helmut Maucher is president, and the Agnelli family of Italy, under which the Swiss group will take control of Perrier. BSN will buy Volvic, a Perrier mineral water brand.

The Agnellis have made a substantial profit on their investment, estimated to be about FF2.6 billion. They will also retain control of Exor, although that group, after its acceptance to sell its 35.5 per cent Perrier stake to Nestlé, will only have some Paris properties, worth about FF4 billion, and the Château Margaux vineyard.

Nestlé yesterday raised its original offer of FF14.75 for each Perrier share to FF17.00. That bid is one of four to have resulted from the overall battle: Exor, Perrier's

main shareholder, bid for Perrier; Ifint, one of the Agnelli family vehicles, bid for Exor; and BSN also bid for Exor. Under the new deal, Exor is dropping its bid for Perrier and accepts Nestlé's tender offer. BSN and Ifint have also come to an agreement over Exor. They will make a joint FF1.450 bid for Exor, but BSN will grant the first right of refusal to Ifint if BSN decides to sell any Perrier shares.

The precise settlement, however, is much more complicated: Ifint, which owns 39.8 per cent of Exor, will pay for, in full, the first 51 per cent of shares tendered, while the remaining shares tendered will be split between Ifint and BSN on the basis of nine-to-one. This means that Ifint will emerge as the controlling shareholder of Exor.

Despite the substantial profits, the outcome of what has turned out to be the most complicated Continental bid battle ever, still amounts to a setback for the Agnelli family and its attempts to build a strong position in France's profitable food and drinks market. After becoming France's largest foreign investor last year, the Agnellis have been caught out by their own strategy, that of buying mi-



Maucher: peace deal

nority stakes in shareholding companies in an attempt to gain control of the target without having to resort to a full bid. The strategy was failed by the application of previously untested takeover rules by the French courts.

Yesterday's events also mark the further consolidation of Nestlé as the world's largest food company. The Swiss group is also one of the 'biggest' European mineral water groups, with brands including Vitell and Ashbourne. In Perrier, it adds the world's leading mineral water brand to its portfolio.

BSN, which was formerly an Agnelli ally but switched sides amid concern over the Italians' ambitions, owns Evian, one of the top still water brands. But since Evian's source in the Swiss Alps is likely to dry out at some stage, BSN has struck a deal with Nestlé under which it will obtain Perrier's Volvic brand for about FF3 billion. This is convenient for Nestlé, helping alleviate fears of a monopoly, which could have arisen had the Swiss group built a more dominant position in the stills water market.

A 'friendly' settlement became the most likely outcome of the takeover bid after a series of court rulings left the Agnellis with their backs to the wall. Nestlé's only hope of winning control of Perrier was to persuade two French commercial courts to cancel or suspend various shareholdings that the Italians and their allies had built up as part of their strategy.

In February, a commercial court in Nîmes suspended one third of Exor's 35.5 per cent holding in Perrier on the grounds that Exor breached takeover rules when it failed to declare an increase in its Perrier stake beyond 33 per cent, the level at which French takeover rules require a predator to make a bid for two thirds of the capital.

## Third year loss for estate agent

BY MATTHEW BOND

HAMBRO Countrywide, the quoted estate agent, has reported a third successive year of losses. In 1991 the company made a pre-tax loss of £6.5 million, considerably larger than the £1 million lost in 1990 but smaller than the £10.5 million deficit rung up in 1989.

The increased losses arise despite an increase in the number of houses sold, the number of mortgages arranged and the number of life policies sold by the group. Completed house sales rose 7.8 per cent to 40,407, while the number of mortgages went up 9.2 per cent to 16,538. The number of life policies rose 4.5 per cent to 19,685.

Christopher Sporborg, chairman, said: "We continue to make strenuous efforts to control costs, invest in strategic developments and in training to improve our core operations."

Mr Sporborg said the group's current policy was cost control rather than wholesale closure of offices. In fact, right at the end of

1991, the company paid £1.7 million for the 22-branch estate agency chain being sold by Cheltenham & Gloucester building society, taken its total number of offices to 487. In the first half of last year the company staffed up in anticipation of a housing market recovery that never arrived. Despite numerous short-lived signs of encouragement during the year, the market got no better. However, Mr Sporborg pointed out that losses had been reduced in the second half of the year.

The lack of activity has continued in the early months of 1992, prompting a warning that early trading results for 1992 were likely to be affected. Mr Sporborg said the market could deteriorate still further if a Labour government were returned at the forthcoming general election. "There is little doubt that higher rates of personal taxation will depress still further all but the lower end of the housing market and thus hamper a widespread recovery in prices and activity," he said.

## Wolseley pegs its dividend

BY COLIN CAMPBELL

WOLSELEY, the building distribution company which has reported lower interim profits, says there is scant evidence that recessionary pressures will ease during the rest of the financial year to the end of July.

Pre-tax profits in the six months to January 31 were £33.7 million (£38 million) on a turnover of £876.2 million (£854.5 million). The interim dividend is being held at 3.1p a share. Interim profits benefited by £1.3 million because of improved translation rates.

In Britain, manufacturing and other activities reported a 5.5 per cent reduction in profits, although the division was helped by the elimination of the losses of two agricultural machinery companies, which have now been sold.

In February, the company acquired the Brossette Group, the French plumbing supply specialist, for FF930.9 million (£95 million). Gearing at end-January was 17.4 per cent compared with 19.5 per cent at the end of July.

## America's good clean fight

FROM PHILIP ROBINSON IN NEW YORK

UNILEVER's new soft soap has worked to put it streets ahead in the \$1.6 billion American market, where it now leads its old rival Procter & Gamble for the first time in almost a century. In the soap world, it is causing rather a sink.

The two have been battling to rule the bathtub since Unilever launched Lifebuoy in 1895 to compete with P&G's Ivory soap, first marketed to American consumers in 1879.

P&G launched Ivory just three years after General George Custer's last stand and in the year when Thomas Edison produced the first practical electric lamp.

But last year, Unilever took 31.5 per cent of the toilet soap sales, topping P&G's 30.5 per cent. The difference may



Custer: missed soap war appear small but the trend is viewed as important. Since 1983 Unilever has increased its market share from 24 per cent while P&G has slumped from 37.1 per cent.

Unilever achieved this market coup with a new brand, Lever 2000, which it claims is a moisturising deodorant soap for all the family. The real fight has yet to

come. While Unilever may have overtaken P&G in the total personal soaps market, it is still only second to Dial, a deodorant soap owned by a corporation of the same name, which is the third largest of the American soap makers.

Dial has just doubled its advertising spend to \$55 million for this year and has launched Spirit, the three-in-one soap which deodorises, moisturises and... cleans. Unilever will keep up the pressure with a \$30 million advertising cheque while P&G has sworn vengeance with a revamped image for Safeguard, once viewed as a soap for men, but now getting a multi-million dollar promotion as a family cleanser.

As part of the fight, Dial is likely to drop its near 40-year-old advertising slogan, "Aren't you glad you used Dial?"



Whisky galore: Dr Chris Greig, the managing director of Invergordon, where annual sales improved against the industry trend

## Victorious battle of Invergordon cost £4.2m

BY COLIN CAMPBELL

INVERGORDON Distillers' successful fight to remain independent in last year's takeover battle for the group by American Brands' Whyte & Mackay Group cost it £4.2 million, year-end results show.

"Although holders of the majority of Invergordon shares rejected the final offer, American Brands now controls 41.3 per cent of the shares of Invergordon as a

result of purchases in the market," said Chris Greig, the managing director of Invergordon.

Invergordon's pre-tax profits of £32.2 million for the year ended December, against £22.7 million previously, were marginally above the forecast made at the height of the takeover battle, and, as forecast, the 1991 final dividend is being raised from 3p to 4p a share, making a total of 6.5p (5p) for the year. Turnover was 2

per cent up at £92.4 million, but there were significant changes in the sales mix in 1991. Export volumes were up, and in the domestic trade sales of bottled, own-label brands showed a 14 per cent rise in volume. This compares with a 7 per cent decline in the market as a whole.

The grain distillery at Invergordon continued to operate near capacity. Sales of new grain whisky distillate rose, but sales of malt

distillate and neutral alcohol fell. Sales of gin and vodka, as yet a small part of total business, increased substantially.

Dr Greig said that sales margins improved by five percentage points, which was thanks to a tight control of costs.

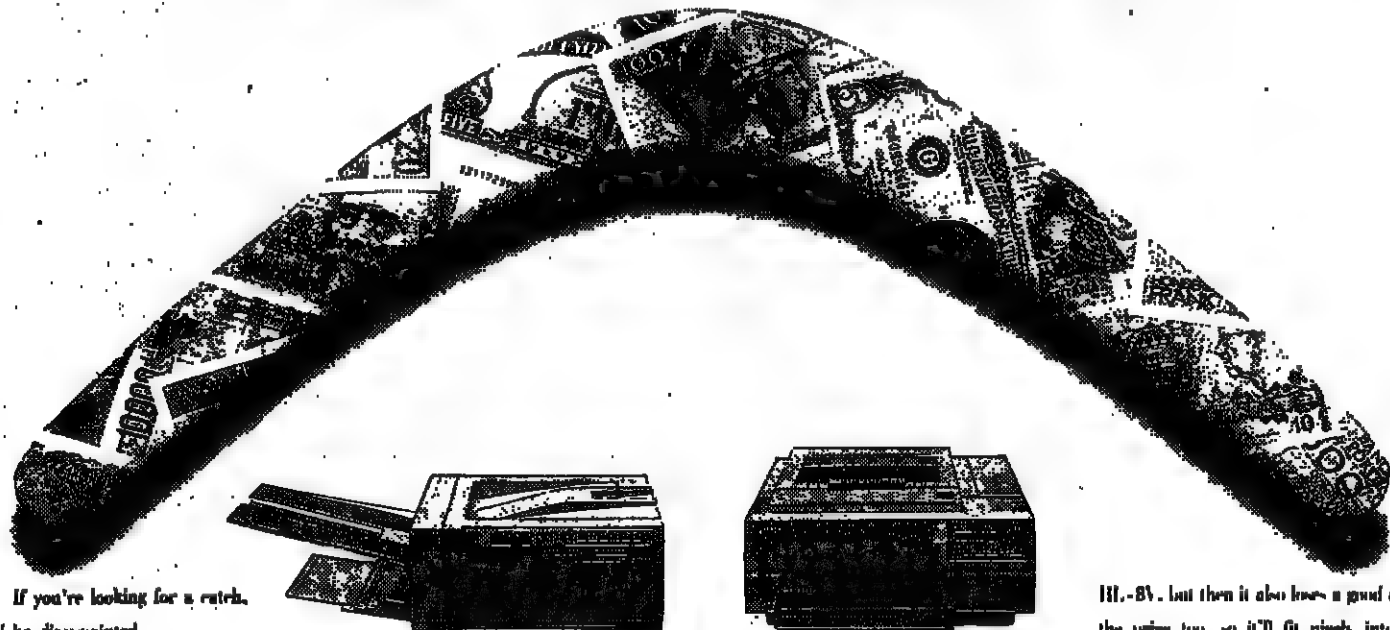
Gearing at balance sheet date was 73 per cent, down from a previous year end level of 113 per cent, and interest cover was 8.1 times. Dr Greig said trading in

1992 had started satisfactorily, and the outlook was for volumes to continue to grow.

The increasing use of own-produced whisky should protect trading margins in 1992, and there will be new trading opportunities once the new white spirit distillery in Greenwich (a joint venture with a Tate & Lyle subsidiary) starts to operate in the autumn.

The shares were unchanged at 272p.

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## STANDARD LIFE

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ANNUAL REPORT  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 15-11-91

## THE GROUP

Standard Life operates in the United Kingdom, Canada and the Republic of Ireland. Over the year total assets under management increased from £19.3 billion to almost £25 billion spread as follows by country of operation:

COUNTRY	£ billion	Percentage
United Kingdom	19.8	80
Canada	4.3	17
Republic of Ireland	0.7	3
TOTAL:	24.8	100

## BONUSES

Investment returns over the year were sufficiently good to enable Standard Life to maintain, and in some cases increase, rates of terminal bonus for with profit policies of long duration, although reductions were again necessary at shorter durations.

Sterling's entry into the Exchange Rate Mechanism seems likely to lead to lower inflation, lower interest rates and consequently lower nominal investment returns than those experienced during the past decade.

For this reason, whilst maintaining reversionary bonus rates for 1991, the Company considered it prudent to reduce rates of interim reversionary bonus, and the equivalent bonus growth rates, on UK with profit policies.

If, as expected, inflation is lower in future, there is no reason to believe that the value in real terms of the proceeds of with profit policies will not be maintained. The Company remains committed to producing returns which will compare as favourably with those offered by competing products in the future as they have consistently done in the past.

Reversionary bonus rates remain unchanged for with profit policies in Canada and the Republic of Ireland.

## NEW BUSINESS

In 1991 the Company again achieved record amounts of new business, with total new premiums worldwide exceeding £2 billion for the first time, of which £1.4 billion related to the United Kingdom.

Endowment mortgage business in the UK at last year's level showed encouraging stability, despite the continued depression of the housing market.

Success was also achieved in the UK regular premium savings market with new premiums up by almost 90%. Single premium investment business was only marginally down on last year, despite the decision not to offer with profit bonds.

1991 was another particularly successful year for the Company's Canadian organisation with total premium income rising by 12% to nearly \$1.2 billion.

Unfavourable economic conditions and adverse investor sentiment led to an overall reduction in new business in the Republic of Ireland. The Company was however able to take full advantage of the expansion in the pensions market which was stimulated by the 1990 Pensions Act.

JOINT VENTURE WITH  
THE HALIFAX BUILDING SOCIETY

The new joint venture company had a successful first year's operation. Future developments should ensure it builds up a significant presence in the unit trust and PEP market in the UK.

## SERVICE

Considerable improvement to service has again been achieved over the past year. Standard Life recognises, however, that it must continue to improve the quality of its service and to focus more on its customers' needs.

To provide a consistently high quality of service a substantial investment in staff training is required. During the year, the Company embarked on a significant new programme, leading to the construction of more comprehensive training plans with encouragement for managers to study for professional qualifications in business management.

## INVESTMENT

Most of the world's economies have suffered from the effects of recession in the past year. However, financial markets, anticipating the decline in interest rates and inflation and looking ahead to economic recovery in 1992, have recovered strongly from the depressed levels at the end of 1990. Standard Life's investment performance was very good partly as a result of all funds being fully invested throughout the year.

Unlike the financial markets, the property market did not recover in 1991. The Company believes, however, that the lower prices now prevailing make property an attractive investment over the medium to long term.

In keeping with the Company's general policy, investment on behalf of its with profit policyholders was principally in equities and property.

STANDARD LIFE'S  
ROLE AS INVESTOR

Standard Life is one of the largest equity



Axis Mundi is sited outside Tanfield House, Edinburgh. The sculpture depicts the ascent of the Five Wise Virgins.

investors in the UK and follows closely the activities of the companies in which it invests. Regular meetings with senior company executives are invaluable in building an understanding of the longer term plans and objectives of these companies and a positive interest is taken in the composition of boards of directors to ensure there is no undue concentration of decision-making powers.

The Company always votes on resolutions at General Meetings and, in takeover situations, makes considered decisions which are in the best interests of its policyholders and investors. In this connection, Standard Life warmly welcomes the recent document issued by the Institutional Shareholders' Committee contributing to the debate on 'Corporate Governance'.

It also strongly supports the initiatives regarding disclosure that the new Accounting Standards Board is starting to take.

## SELF REGULATION

Standard Life welcomes the announcement by the Securities and Investment Board (SIB) last year of a wide-ranging review of retail regulation.

The Company supports SIB's view that polarisation – the drawing of a sharp distinction between independent financial advisors and those employed by or 'tied' to a particular company – is clearly in the interests of the consumer.

Standard Life has been concerned that the existence of several overlapping regulatory organisations is almost bound to lead to confusion, anomaly and excessive expense. It has urged SIB to move towards a single self-regulatory organisation for all retail investment products as the most practical means of developing a more meaningful and cost effective regime for the future.

## EUROPE

The European Commission has issued a further draft Directive, intended to harmonise the financial and technical requirements for the cross-border selling of life assurance in a single European market. Standard Life is pleased that the regulatory framework proposed is broadly in line with current UK practice.

## STAFF

The Chairman and the Managing Director praised highly the efforts of the Company's staff in writing record amounts of new business, and at the same time in further improving the quality of service to policyholders.

BOARD AND EXECUTIVE  
CHANGES

During the year Mr John B Zaozimy, former Minister of Energy and Natural Resources in the Government of Alberta, Canada, was appointed a director of the Company.

Mr A U Lyburn, General Manager (Personnel) and Mr R R Naudie, Executive Vice President (Corporate) of Standard Life's Canadian Organisation, retired after long and distinguished careers with the Company.

## OUTLOOK FOR THE GROUP

Standard Life has strengthened its position in the UK market and has moved further towards establishing an equally significant presence in Canada.

Notwithstanding the general concern about the overall level of demand in 1992 for life assurance, pensions and savings products, Standard Life has little doubt that its financial strength and record, together with the abilities and enthusiasm of its staff, will ensure that it will again increase its share of the markets in which it chooses to operate.

Painful diet could bring  
Prudential back to health

BARRY GREENWOOD

THERE seems no end to the Prudential Corporation's diet. Soon after his appointment as chief executive in 1990, Mick Newmarch ordered the sale of the Belgian subsidiary. Last year, it was the turn of the ill-fated estate agency chain. Now Mr Newmarch has closed the doors on general insurance broker business.

Time will tell if the Pru emerges leaner and fitter or just leaner. However, most of the disposals were ideal candidates and some have left ugly holes in the Pru's otherwise robust profit and loss account.

The general insurance business was one. Its £77 million pre-tax loss, combined with closure costs of £53 million, transformed healthy figures for 1991 into limp ones, including a retained loss of £113 million.

Group pre-tax profits rose 9 per cent to £267 million, mainly due to the absence of any estate agency losses (£34 million last time). If the Pru had decided to take the closure costs above the line as reorganisation expenses, the picture would have looked far less healthy. Despite this, the dividend for the year is rising 7 per cent to 11p.

Shareholders must now wait and see what ideas Mr Newmarch comes up with next. The axe may well fall again, since Mercantile & General, the reinsurance arm, is still an uncomfortable fit with the group's retail business, regardless of the group's vocal commitment to the business.

Alternatively, the group may look for an overseas acquisition to repeat the success of Jackson National, its American subsidiary. It could also try to buy a place in the British high street with the acquisition of a building society, although Mr Newmarch has ruled out any approach to Midland Bank.

In the meantime, the City is waiting for the Pru to adopt the new accrual accounting methods which will highlight the innate strength of its life fund. Until then, the shares, at 221p, are reasonably priced on a price/earnings ratio of 16, assuming £400 million profit this year.

## Laporte

LAPORTE, like any chemist worth his test tube, has neatly changed compounds and has come up with a new formula. At the same time, it has widened further its empire with a deal in America and admits that the empire-building is not over yet.

The hint last November



Ice cool: Malcolm Walker, the chairman of Iceland Frozen Foods

that the Interco joint venture with Belgium's Solvay group would be unwound has been put into effect. Laporte is swapping its stake in the bulk hydrogen peroxide business with Solvay and takes over 100 per cent of the more profitable specialty peroxo chemicals business.

The net effect is to relieve Laporte of extensive capital expenditure that would otherwise have fallen to its lot. In time, there will be a decided kick to net earnings because of the move and there is now a strategic "new" springboard in Germany from which to advance on Europe.

Laporte is buying Rockwood, a family owned iron oxide-based colouring systems business in America, for \$60 million in cash, which gives it a strategic position once the American economy improves.

The Interco deal sees Solvay's 25 per cent stake in Laporte dissipated, partly through the cancellation of shares, partly through a placing of 8.7 per cent with institutional investors at 533p. At the same time, Laporte is raising £40.3 million through another placing to pay for Rockwood.

The profits outlook begins

to look much brighter from 1993 after last year's pre-tax profits of £97.2 million (£103 million), dented in part by the loss of a £6 million contract when a customer married a competitor. Profits could edge to £98 million, or 44.2p per share, this year and jump to £107 million in 1993, for earnings of 50p. The chemistry looks good and, at 567p, on 12.8 times prospective earnings, Laporte is a buy.

Iceland Frozen  
Foods

HAVING grown from a single roadside strawberry stall to 500 outlets in 21 years, Iceland Frozen Foods, one of the most remarkable success stories in UK food retailing, is about to take on the French. A £1 million investment in a 50 per cent share in a sleepy French frozen food retailer might represent a small foothold in the most food-conscious culture in Europe, but the trend of European dietary convergence appears to be running in Iceland's direction.

In Britain, the company continues its apparently inexorable expansion with like-

for-like sales ahead by 15 per cent and a further 41 stores opened last year. In part, the company is benefiting from the consumers trading down during the recession, but even allowing for this, Iceland continues to grow its market share within the frozen food sector. Iceland claims that it has no direct competitors within Europe, thereby protecting it from the threat of continental discounters such as Aldi. Indeed, according to Malcolm Walker, Iceland's chairman and chief executive, several Iceland stores have successfully traded alongside Aldi outlets.

Operating margins came under modest pressure last year, narrowing from 7.1 per cent to 6.5 per cent, but the volume growth more than compensated, allowing pre-tax profits to rise by 15 per cent to £46.3 million and earnings to grow by 19 per cent to 34.64p. The dividend was up by 18 per cent at 8.5p. Profits of £54 million in the current year would give earnings of 56p, putting the shares on a rating of just over 13 times. Given the company's exceptional growth record, the shares still look good value, despite their recent strong run.

Dow edges up in  
early trading

New York — Blue chips hung on to the remnants of their opening gains in the late morning, supported by a firmer bond market and the better sentiment in the London market. The Dow Jones industrial average edged up a point to 3,273.14. Rising shares outnumbered falls by eight to six.

□ Tokyo — Growing pessimism about a significant cut in interest rates pushed prices lower in thin trading. The Nikkei index dropped 348.03 points, or 1.72 per cent, to 19,891.57. Investors, disillusioned by the central bank of Japan's reluctance to make a quick cut in the official discount rate — at which the central bank charges commercial banks to borrow money — stayed away from trading.

□ Frankfurt — German shares continued to ease after falling on Monday, but managed to recoup most of yesterday's morning's heavy losses. The Dax index ended 4.34

points down at 1,713.11. However, BMW, the carmaker, and ASKO, the retailer, again resisted the trend, with strong performances, building on last week's gains.

□ Hong Kong — The market finished slightly lower in tug-of-war trading between profit-taking among blue chips and selective buying of utilities and second-liners. The Hang Seng index closed 6.82 points, or 0.17 per cent, down at 5,052.32.

□ Sydney — Shares closed slightly weaker as they continued to shadow Tokyo's downward path in the absence of buying signals elsewhere. The all-ordinaries index ended 3.4 points lower at 1,583.4.

□ Singapore — Prices ended higher, supported by bargain-hunting among selected blue-chips, but trading remained dull due to lack of fresh factors, brokers said. The Straits Times industrial index closed 4.04 points higher at 1,439.78. (Reuters)

## MAJOR CHANGES

RISES	FALLS
Laporte 567p (+10p)	Young 'A' 498p (-22p)
Kingfisher 450p (+14p)	Colson 320p (-11p)
AEF Inc 170p (+12p)	Liberty Life 680p (-20p)
ADT 515p (+15p)	Rackitt & Colman 645p (-10p)
Boots 441p (+8p)	Bridon 75p (-14p)
Glaxo 814p (+32p)	Jacques Vert 610p (-14p)
Secta 615p (+10p)	WHL 80p (-7p)
Wellcome 978p (+34p)	Assoc Fisheries 118p (-24p)
Worlester 180p (+11p)	William Law 214p (-10p)
Pearson 785p (+15p)	
Reed Int 571p (+12p)	

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bring health

# Sterling bets on property market

Lord Sterling is in no doubt. So convinced is he that better times lie ahead that he has spent £1 million on buying 250,000 P&O shares, a gesture echoed by Bruce MacPhail, P&O's managing director, who spent over £500,000 on increasing his personal stake in the shipping-to-property conglomerate. Indeed, there was rather a lot of what his lordship describes as putting your money where your mouth is yesterday. No more so than at Chelsfield, the private property company run by Elliott Bernard, which provided a much-needed boost to the property sector by confirming that it had raised a total of £227 million, including £65 million of pre-commitments to an £80 million equity placing that BZW will unveil formally today.

To raise any equity in the current property market is remarkable, but to raise £65 million in a week where even the mighty Olympia & York has stumbled is little short of astonishing. Pre-commitments include £10 million each from Chelsfield and P&O and as yet unspecified, but significant, investment from British Land. Through their participation, Mr Bernard, Lord Sterling and John Ritblat — three hardened veterans of earlier slumps — have demonstrated their conviction that there is, or soon will be, money to be made from property. Where they lead, others are likely to follow, albeit at a prudently cautious pace.

Lord Sterling is also banking on a property recovery at P&O. The unwinding of Pall Mall Properties, the joint venture with Chelsfield, will swell P&O's investment portfolio to around £1.3 billion. Selling up to £500 million of that over the next three years could be the best way of reducing P&O's gearing, which will rise inconveniently to 70 per cent as a result of yesterday's deals. Property's army of Jeremiahs will say it cannot be done, that the property market is now entering an unexplored wilderness of vacancy rates and unserviceable debt. Three leaders in that market have staked millions on them being wrong. Reputations, as well as personal fortunes, are on the line.

# Awaiting the call

After the long and rewarding reign of two powerful personalities, the management succession at Lloyds Bank was always likely to be tricky. Yesterday's confirmation of Sir Jeremy Morse's retirement shows the difficulties. Sir Robin Ibbes has had an impressive business career, but will surely be little more than a caretaker chairman when he steps up next year. Sir Robin is already 67, two and a half years older than Sir Jeremy. He may well be keeping the seat warm for Sir David Walker, while the latter serves an apprenticeship as deputy chairman, an initiation that Sir Jeremy underwent in 1976. That arrangement leaves room for the possibility, depending in part on the outcome of the election, that Sir David could become Governor of the Bank of England next year, after Robin Leigh-Pemberton comes to the end of his second term. Sir David, a former Bank director, could strengthen his chances further with a spell on the board of a clearing bank.

Brian Pitman is to stay on as Lloyds' chief executive until 1995, when he will be 63 and three years above the normal executive retirement age. Michael Hepher, the former head of Lloyds Abbey Life, was regarded as heir apparent until he moved to British Telecom. Lloyds kept the field wide open yesterday by appointing John Davies as deputy chief executive. Mr Davies is 59 and not, therefore, an obvious successor. Whoever eventually takes either job at Lloyds will have a lot to live up to — and no Midland Bank to inherit.

# Ford takes chequered flag on the line as Vauxhall aims for its crown

Vauxhall is challenging Ford's position as the leading seller of new cars. Kevin Eason looks at the battle for the coveted top slot

Ian McAllister has come out punching hard in the third round of the bitter battle for supremacy over the British car market between Ford and Vauxhall. Ford has been the nation's biggest car company for 15 years and Mr McAllister, the new chairman of Ford UK, has told his 1,000 dealers that he is not going to give up that position easily.

The company had a bad start to the year, announcing 2,100 redundancies and a record financial loss of £590 million. The last thing Ford and its dealers need is the confidence-sapping announcement that Vauxhall has won the lead as Britain's biggest supplier of new cars. The record says that Ford still has its top position, but the official figures have masked a desperate clawback by the company in each of the past two months.

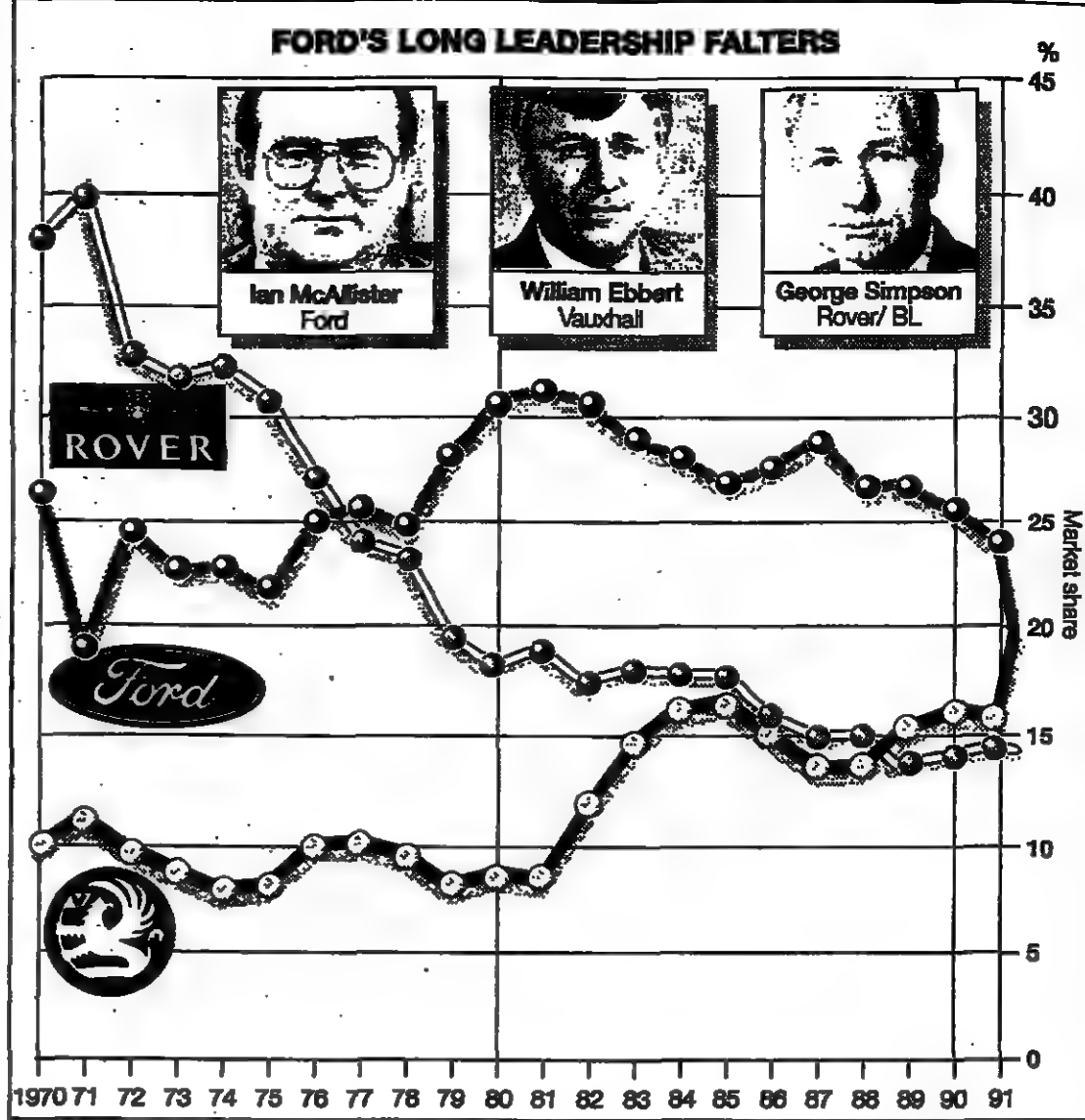
Vauxhall, the British subsidiary of General Motors, has come close to knocking Ford off the top position, mainly because of a better range of models. Vauxhall's Cavalier has become the top-selling car and the new Astra, introduced late last year, has been widely acclaimed. Ford's Sierra, the chief competitor to the Cavalier, is due for replacement and its new Escort was greeted coolly on its 1990 launch.

Ford might be leading on points. In boxing parlance, but its efforts look increasingly like those of the overweight, flatfooted old champion, but throwing everything into one big effort that might drain its strength for later rounds. Ford cars continue to feature regularly among the first few positions of the top ten best sellers, but at what cost? The price of ensuring cars are best sellers is expensive when they are not the cars the buyers really want.

The first thing to understand about the current battle is that the monthly sales figures are not a record of sales at all, but of registrations. Officially, a car does not have to leave the showroom with a customer to go up, merely to be given its registration documents.

That means manufacturers can land a variety of clever low blows to ensure their own monthly figures look healthy. Cars can be registered by dealers as demonstrators, a quick and easy ploy for the manufacturer that sees sales slipping and wants to boost its end-month totals.

A favourite with big manufacturers is to have cars registered with company fleets, particularly daily rental fleets. The rental fleets buy the cars at discounts of as much as 40 per cent, then return them back onto the market as soon as six or eight weeks later to be sold as nearly new cars. A little pressure on a main fleet customer, in which the manufacturer



er might even have a financial stake, might encourage it to place an order strategically towards the end of the sales month, artificially boosting sales figures.

When Mr McAllister took over as chairman at the turn of the year, he gave an idealistic promise that Ford was no longer in the business of buying registrations. He said he wanted to scale down heavily discounted fleet deals that made no profit for Ford, having only the value of maintaining registrations.

In January, Ford found itself trailing Vauxhall after 20 days, but somehow found 15,000 extra registrations towards the end of the month to retain leadership. February was even more fascinating, as the unthinkable was about to happen. By Friday, February 28, Ford public relations executives closed in on the company's unprepossessing headquarters at Warley, Essex, were convinced that they had lost market leadership.

Bill Ebbert, Vauxhall's chairman, was understandably cock-a-hoop. A 20-year haul back from huge financial losses, inefficient factories and unreliable cars had been completed by overtaking both Ford and Rover in the sales charts.

Vauxhall only started to pay corporation tax for the first time in two decades, in 1989 as the business

paid off £300 million of accumulated debt. The struggle over those 20 years had forced Vauxhall to introduce new working practices, radically increasing productivity by as much as 60 per cent in four years at its Luton, Bedfordshire, plant. Models were improved and new marketing strategies introduced.

The key to Vauxhall's restructuring was the company's push to build exports to the Continent to bolster its domestic sales and set against imports from GM's continental plants. Last year, Vauxhall sent 102,000 cars across the Channel from its main production plants at Luton and Ellesmere Port, Merseyside, out of total British output of more than 261,000 cars, turning it into a net exporter. Exports enabled Vauxhall to withstand the impact of the slump in the British market, down by a third in two years.

Instead of discounting, Vauxhall took the marketing high ground of setting fixed prices for key models, such as the Astra, to end the haggling that customers said they did not want. The move was in direct opposition to Ford's price-cutting, to some extent forced on the business by its reliance on its home market.

Vauxhall geared up for exporting two years ago, George Simpson,

chairman of Rover, is changing his company's entire marketing strategy to overseas sales. Mr Simpson wants 60 per cent of output to go abroad and is well on target with exports last year up to 240,000 while production for the domestic market fell below 230,000.

By contrast, Ford exports only the Fiesta, the small car made at Dagenham, Essex. Overseas sales account for about 60 per cent of the daily output of 1,100 cars, an endorsement of the rapid quality and efficiency improvements at Ford's oldest British plant.

Ford is, however, a large net importer. British production of the Escort, Britain's best-selling car throughout the Eighties, has been sold only at home. The Escort has been Ford's bread-and-butter car, the mainstay of fleets and a money-spinner in good times.

The latest generation of the car arrived to scathing criticism and has not yet really recovered. The Escort plant at Halewood, Merseyside, was on short-time working for the second half of last year and only this year has pilot production on Escort exports started. A new multi-valve engine Zeta range has been introduced, but rival manufacturers have been marketing small multi-valve cars for years.

Against the background of Ford's

struggles, winning leadership of the British market would have sealed the success of Vauxhall's strategy — but the dream was shattered on March 3 when final registrations were added up. Ford had won leadership back by just 149 cars.

After three weeks in which Ford's daily sales never exceeded 1,000 cars, suddenly the company recorded registrations in the last four days of 2,689, 2,171, 1,216 and 1,013. They were enough to sneak past Vauxhall. Ford later admitted that two fleet deals had brought orders for "hundreds of cars" although the company refused to elaborate on how big an impact they had on the last days of February.

If February was a close shave, then there is to be no mistake this month. Dealers have been told in a letter from Ernie Thompson, Ford's sales director, that the company wants a 30 per cent share of the March new car market, closer to levels ten years ago and much more than February's 22.8 per cent.

This declaration of intent came immediately after the Budget when discounts worth up to £750 were added to savings averaging £400 a car from the halving of special car tax. In reality, some dealers have been offering even more generous discounts to keep stock moving.

That is hardly surprising given the incentives — double previous bonuses — on offer to dealers. Those selling between 50 and 75 per cent of their sales targets for Fiesta and Escort models this month will be paid £100 a car. Between 75 and 100 per cent, the incentives rise to £300 (up from £150) and by over 100 per cent to £500 a car (£200 previously).

Offers on Orion, Sierra and Granada are similarly worth up to £500 for the dealer who gets registrations and helps propel Ford towards its 30 per cent target share for March. That means Ford is spending as much as £1,300 per car before it leaves the showroom, a bold marketing strategy that should "move metal" and retain leadership but that is unlikely to put any profit back into the Warley coffers.

Vauxhall remains a leadership contender and gathers strength in the marketplace. Several other manufacturers are also nibbling away at Ford's traditional customer base. Rover's market share is reviving; Peugeot has leapt from taking under 3 per cent of UK sales to almost 8 per cent, while Nissan, now manufacturing at Washington, Tyne & Wear, is girding its loins, having lost market share and been obliged to concentrate on export markets during the dispute with its former main distributor.

The increasing confidence of rival manufacturers will surely bring an end to the domination of car sales in Britain by one company. Ford has enjoyed its position for 15 years, accounting, at its peak, for one in three of all new car sales. The pressure from Vauxhall means Ford's domination could be brought to an end soon, but that will only end the waiting that has surrounded the motor industry all year.

# THE TIMES CITY DIARY

## Renate drives into Broadgate

RENATE Weisenthal, owner of the successful Renate designer clothes shop in Knightsbridge, has used her husband's motor industry contacts to secure an interesting backer for a new Renate store in the Broadgate development aimed specifically at the female executive. Weisenthal, whose husband is a director of Mercedes, persuaded their mutual friend, irrepressible millionaire David Wickens, one-time chairman of British Car Auctions, to back her new City venture. Wickens, aged 72, who once similarly tried his hand at the restaurant business as the backer of Number 10 in Old Burlington Street, admits to knowing "nothing at all" about clothes but says he is happy to "dip a toe in the waters" of the world of fashion. After selling BCA to Michael Ashcroft's ADT group in 1987, Wickens retired to Spain, but has since grown tired of the "gold Rolex belt" of Marbella and lives instead in Majorca. Although Wickens has sold his house in Eaton Place, and uses service apartments when in town, he is clearly becoming bored. He reveals that he is looking for a new challenge, but not fashion. "Something a little more serious," he says.



national insurance contributions. This year, however, the securities house has decided to play it by the book and has paid its bonus payments in cash. BZW insists that this fine display of rectitude has nothing to do with the appointment as BZW chairman of Sir Peter Middleton, the ex-permanent secretary at the Treasury. According to an in-house spokesman, Middleton arrived in March 1991 and the bonus U-turn only came about last November, when the legal loophole on unit trusts was plugged.

## Kuwait next for BP

BP, which has recently taken a drumming over its 1991 results — and where chairman Bob Horton earned £787,000 last year, including bonus payments but excluding share options — looks set to be the first Western oil company to be invited into Kuwait in the aftermath of the Gulf war. Full details have yet to be confirmed by BP, which says it is still in negotiations, but a technical services deal should soon go through which, though small, is potentially of great significance. According to New York news-

letter Petroleum Intelligence Weekly, no Western company presence would have been countenanced in Kuwait prior to the Iraqi invasion, but Kuwait is now in urgent need of advice on its best oil producing options in the postwar era. BP, which has beaten rival oil companies including Chevron, Amoco and Shell to the post, will now have a foot in the door as Kuwait turns westwards for further oil expertise. The contract should, according to the newsletter's author, provide sufficient for 30 executive salaries — but presumably none of them would be in quite the same league as Horton's.

## Florida work-out

MIKE Pierce, the former salesman who claims to have sold air-conditioning to eskimos in his day, is stepping up his efforts to save British industry. Pierce, formerly of Handley-Walker, the management consultant bought out by FE group in October, is determined to win the minds of Britain's managers with his idea of "intrapreneurship" — a matter, he claims, of reinvigorating disgruntled staff.

"There is so much doom and gloom in this economy that a lot of latent talent goes unnoticed," says Pierce, an Irishman who grew up in Canada, and who will be going on British radio this week to discuss his ideas. He is offering two-day workshops in Florida this summer for burned-out managers whom, he hopes, will return suitably motivated. At a cost of £500 for two days plus air fare, they had better be.

CAROL LEONARD

## Elwes did consider other systems

From Mr Nigel Elwes  
Sir, I hope you will permit me to correct a point made by Peter Rawlins in his interview with Mr Kay (March 17). Mr Rawlins maintains that the Elwes Committee was not looking at other ways of making markets or trading. This is not true. Our terms of reference when we were appointed by the council in 1988 included instructions "to review the present market structure" and to "consider the present competing Market Maker system in comparison with other systems".

As part of our work we visited most major overseas exchanges to study alternative dealing systems, and much of the Consultative Document of May 1989 was devoted to our views on the effectiveness of the market. In July 1990 we published the Implementation Plan in which we stated "one of the committee's prime aims was to assess whether the competing Market Maker system and SEAQ was the most appropriate mechanism for trading UK equities. The committee, strongly supported by responses from the membership, concluded that the choice of trading mechanism made in preparation for Big Bang has been correct".

On one further point, I am pleased that Mr Rawlins has now accepted the need for an integrated mechanism to handle Stock Exchange business. This need was highlighted by the Special Committee in their report of March 1990. They noted that "firms are concerned that the systems interfaces with the ISE are not what they should be". We outlined in Appendix 4 of our report, the concept of the Market Access Service which would allow all firms "to access prices, deal, confirm and settle bargains through a common systems interface".

Yours faithfully,  
NIGEL ELWES,  
Aylesfield Farmhouse,  
Alton, Hants.

## Satisfied customer

From Mrs E. M. Thomas  
Sir, I have been reading with interest the letters in your Business Supplement regarding "friendly banks". When I was 20, I went to the branch of Barclays Bank in New Bond Street to open my first bank account. The manager read my letter of introduction and then smiled and said: "Would you like to open your account by taking something in?" I am now 81, and needless to say, I still bank with Barclays.

Yours faithfully,  
E. M. THOMAS,  
13 The Cloisters,  
Belmore Lane,  
Lymington, Hants.

## Pharmacist's role

From Mr D. H. Maddock  
Sir, Your correspondent A. F. Russell (Business Letters March 18), in supporting Glaxo's pricing policies, makes the derogatory, dismissive remark that "all the chemist has to do is hand the stuff over the counter against a doctor's prescription".

I am the practicing pharmacist member of a Project Board charged with producing a model describing community pharmacy, through the expansion of the NHS Common Basic Specification. The Project is proceeding to plan, and scheduled for completion in September, yet after only six months' work, the model already extends to some 600 pages.

At the end of one traumatic workshop session, the Senior Consultant from a major international organisation, remarked that he had always been puzzled that "on entering a seemingly empty pharmacy with the pharmacist just pottering about in the back on his own, he was told to return for his medicine in about 20 minutes. After that one session of analysis, he (the consultant) was surprised that he was not told to return in two days!" There is a little more to community pharmacy than just handing out a potent medicine over the counter.

Perhaps Mr Russell should also be reminded that it was a pharmacist (Dr David Jack), who led and inspired Glaxo's Research and Development Division that produced the products that are the basis of Glaxo's extraordinary commercial success.

Yours faithfully,  
D. H. MADDOCK,  
M. Pharm, Ph.D.,  
Fellow of the  
Royal Pharmaceutical Society,  
Cefn Ydfa,  
44 Church Street,  
Padstow, Cornwall.

## Shadow over homes used as collateral

From Mr T. M. Neill  
Sir, Further to Anatole Kalotzky's analysis of the Shadow budget, there is another aspect worthy of comment.

The big increase in tax and NIC on incomes over £23,000 will mean that less money is available for mortgage repayments. This will cause a drop in house prices, especially higher valued houses. I estimate that a 10 per cent fall would be necessary to accommodate this.

This fact has been widely discussed. But it will have important consequences, not so far mentioned.

A straw poll among family, friends and business acquaintances reveals that the largest mortgages have been taken out by people wishing to re-

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- Education

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1500



## Portfolio

### PLATINUM

From your Portfolio Platinum card check your right share price movements on this page. Add them up to give you the overall total and check this against the daily dividend figure. If it matches you have won outright or a share of the daily prize money. If you win, follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. Always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No.	Company	Group	Gain or loss
1	BT Group	Telecom	1.00
2	British Telecom	Telecom	1.00
3	Admiral	Insurance	1.00
4	Life Sciences	Pharmaceuticals	1.00
5	Imperial Chemical Industries	Chemicals	1.00
6	Shell	Oil	1.00
7	British Airways	Airline	1.00
8	British Petroleum	Oil	1.00
9	British Steel	Steel	1.00
10	British Airways	Airline	1.00
11	British Airways	Airline	1.00
12	British Airways	Airline	1.00
13	British Airways	Airline	1.00
14	British Airways	Airline	1.00
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5	Imperial Chemical Industries	Chemicals	1.00
6	Shell	Oil	1.00
7	British Airways	Airline	1.00
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9	British Steel	Steel	1.00
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18	British Airways	Airline	1.00
19	British Airways	Airline	1.00
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## Shares enjoy modest gains

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began March 23. Dealings end April 3. Settlement day April 13. 8 Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days. Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

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Please take into account any bonus issues.

Weekly Dividend

Please make a note of your daily gains for the weekly dividend of £2,000 on Saturday's newspaper.

MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT SUN

Julie Dawn Griffin, of Southampton, won the £2,000 Portfolio Platinum prize yesterday.

1991/92 High Low Company Price Net Yield P/E

BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP

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BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP

ELECTICALS						
51	66	AB Elect	66	- 1	8.1	0.3
52	73	ACT Group	168	...	...	...
53	168	Acet	203	+ 3	5.4	3.0
54	...	Acorn Comput	71	...	...	...
55	230	Admiral	320	...	4.8	2.0
56	63	Alfa	117	...	4.3	5.0
57	20	Alphabetic	23	...	...	...
58	22	Amrad	31	- 2	1.4	6.0
59	50	App Helco	137	...	...	...
60	11	Arfin	16	...	0.5	4.2
61	8	Astec	164	...	...	...
62	100	Ausa Sec	157	+ 2	4.6	6.3
63	70	Bates Hunter	208	...	...	...



# Salaries soaring on Wall Street

**FROM PHILIP ROBINSON IN NEW YORK**

A high-contrast, black and white portrait of a man in a suit and tie, looking directly at the camera. The image is framed by a thick black border.

**Danger of economic overkill: Yasushi Mieno, governor of the Bank of Japan**

## BTR Nylex to make Westinghouse offer

### FRIDRICH REUTER IN MELBOURNE

□ The French February trade surplus narrowed to Fr407 million from Fr3.53 billion in January, official seasonally-adjusted figures showed. This brought the surplus so far to Fr3.94 billion (Fr8.67bn deficit).

## Warning on 'Maxwell martyrs'

**By OUR CITY STAFF**

thousands of Maxwell pension fund members, warned the industry not to underestimate the effect of the saga.

"If Maxwell pensioners do

Mr Trench, chairman of the Maxwell Private Companies Pension Fund Members Association, called on the pension industry to sup-

The pay of Howard Clark, Shearson Lehman Brothers' chairman, doubled to \$2.8 million last year, Frank Zarb, who heads Smith Barney, Harris Upham, received a 43 per cent increase to \$2.3 million and Alan "Ace" Greenberg, the chairman of Bear Stearns, was awarded cash and options up 26 per cent to \$5.3 million.

## Cathay Pacific cuts costs

FROM LULU YU  
IN HONG KONG

## Dividend at Goal raised

**By PHILIP RANGALDS**

**IN HONG KONG**  
FALLING profits have led Cathay Pacific Airways to start cutting costs and increasing productivity. The flag-carrying airline, a subsidiary of Swire Pacific, made net profits of HK\$2.95 billion (US\$380 million) last year, down 1.5 per cent. David Giochiti, the chairman, said the results had been hurt by the Gulf war, which reduced world travel.

He said: "Although passengers started to fly again in greater numbers in the latter part of the year, the recession continued and price competition increased as airlines struggled to conserve and improve their profits. While we hoped for improved revenues this year, the airline's success would depend on its ability to control costs."

**GOAL** Petroleum, the independent oil exploration and production company, is raising its dividend in spite of a 4.5 per cent decline in pre-tax profits to £10.1 million in the year to end-December.

Operating profit rose marginally, from HK\$3.62 billion to HK\$3.65 billion. Net finance charges soared 48 per cent to HK\$238 million.

Turnover increased by 7.4 per cent to £44.8 million, in spite of an 11 per cent fall in the average price of oil from £12.05 to £10.72 per barrel of oil. The group lost about £5.5 million on turnover because of the fall in the oil price. Production advanced by 21 per cent to a record 11,460 barrels of oil per day. The figures were boosted by a full contribution from Wytch Farm, Dorset.

Low costs and cash generation enabled the group to reduce gearing from 39 per cent to 22 per cent. Earnings climb from 4.24p to 4.92p a share. The dividend is being raised by 13.6 per cent to 1.25p (1.1p). The shares firmed 4p to 44p.

**No doom.  
No gloom.  
Sun.**

At Sun, we've never been an ordinary computer company. While others face doom, and talk gloom, we celebrate our ten years of consistent growth, all at a pace that's five times faster than the rest of the computer business.

At Sun, we are seeing gains, not losses. In the quarter ending 27 December, we made 20% more sales over the same period a year ago, and shipped more product than ever before.

**We are successful too with our new multiprocessing servers - powerful minicomputers with superfast processing for business and technical applications - and we're on target to be the world's foremost supplier of multiprocessor servers by the end of 1992.**

We are continuing to expand our Scottish factory, and export millions of pounds of advanced computer technology from Britain all over the world.

Today, Sun commands the largest share - nearly 40% - of the world's fastest growing computer market: workstations and servers.

Sun developed SPARC, the RISC chip with over 50% of its market.

Sun pioneered truly open computing.

Sun strives for coexistence, not conflict, in computing.

**Sun Microsystems Ltd**

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## HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

## Staff with a say in policy

Employees work best if their aims match the company's. Michel Syrett describes the modern approach

Companies will meet the challenges of the 1990s only by carrying their staff with them, says Tony Barnes, the director of the Europe Japan Centre at Osaka Gas. Mr Barnes says the Japanese have a headstart because of their effective human resource strategies. Employees are encouraged to understand the business and to subscribe to company values, he says.

Mr Barnes is a key speaker at the conference organised by the Institute of Training and Development to mark Human Resource Development Week, the annual gathering of human resource managers and personnel specialists.

Managing change through creative personnel strategies is one of the conference's themes. Mr Barnes says Japanese workers perform better than Europeans because they are given a better understanding of the need for company growth, increased profits and wider markets, and have more

say in helping employers to achieve goals.

The Japanese approach is based on *kaizen*, which assumes that our way of life, at work or at home, deserves to be constantly improved. As a human resource strategy, *kaizen* means delegating decisions closer to the people who do the work, striving for consensus in all aspects of industrial policy, and ensuring that employees' goals are close to those of the business.

"The ability to tap the creativity and ideas of individual workers has been a key feature of Japanese human resource strategies," Mr Barnes says. Managers give the employees greater licence to be inventive, ensure they are trained and give them recognition when they succeed.

Mr Barnes names many Western companies that have adopted this philosophy of continuous improvement, including blue-chip enterprises such as ICL, ICI and Grand Metropolitan. Continuous



Involvement: Tony Barnes, left, shares company policy with employees at Osaka Gas

management development during the past ten years, for example, has helped to make ICL part of the world's second largest information technology consortium, says Andrew Mayo, ICL's personnel di-

rector. Mr Mayo says: "We wanted managers who were marketing-led, capable of taking a long-term view and able to encourage staff to be innovative and open-minded." An important feature of

ICL's approach to training is the freedom the company gives to employees at all levels to manage their careers.

The company has set up career guidance centres that help key managers to recog-

nise opportunities for growth in their jobs through special assignments, projects and secondments, ensure that managers can apply training quickly and provide constant reaction, guidance on career planning, and support from in-house mentors.

Mr Barnes says ICL is proof that Japanese approaches are easily adapted by the West. "The changes taking place in business pose enormous challenges," he says. "It asks managers, 'Are you really using your human resource to its full capacity and tapping people for their ideas, imagination, vision and vitality?'"

Andrew Mayo is the author of *Managing Careers - Strategies for Organisations*, published by the Institute of Personnel Management. The Human Resource Development Week Conference and Exhibition is from March 31 to April 2 at Wembley. It is organised on behalf of the Institute of Training and Development by Blenheim Marlborough. Tickets and further information from Justine Parkinson, Blenheim Marlborough, 630 Chiswick High Road, London W4 5BG (081-742 2828).

## Cut the errors to cut the cost

MANY companies ask what they should do if they suffer from "quality droop" as they struggle to improve employee performance with new approaches to total quality management, Michel Syrett writes.

Quality droop, says Nigel Slack, professor of manufacturing at Warwick University, happens when businesses introduce total quality management with a fanfare but fail to build it into their objectives and personnel strategies.

Enthusiasm and the programme's effectiveness wane and managers and supervisors become cynical. Professor Slack says: "Too often, total quality management is seen as an end in itself, not a means to greater productivity and improvement. Senior directors swallow the theories of quality gurus whole without taking into account the attitude of their workforce and the individual circumstances of their own businesses."

Market research commissioned by the American firm Organisational Dynamics suggests that many UK businesses have learnt this lesson. A survey of more than 100 UK quality managers found many ways of "standardised

solutions" and "the generalisations of quality gurus". American packages were thought to be brash, overpriced and inappropriate for UK culture.

When Girobank managers introduced a total quality management programme in 1987, they knew the company had to take its own approach.

Gordon Henderson, the head of corporate quality, says: "Our inspectors are our customers and by the time they find something wrong, the damage has been done. We have introduced measures to ensure that errors almost never reach customers."

Girobank has started initiatives to ensure that commitment to quality is kept alive in employees. The company runs annual workshops to inform staff of company expectations, and links bonuses and performance pay to quality objectives.

Keyboard errors are down by half, post office errors by 65 per cent, customer complaints by two-thirds and inventory costs by 38 per cent. Girobank was the first service company to win a British quality award. The savings since 1987 are £8 million.

## Management therapy

The NHS is being treated with modern methods for its radical changes

The changes brought about by nearly a decade of continuous reform in the National Health Service have triggered a wide range of training and development initiatives, Michel Syrett writes. Some have been coordinated by the NHS Training Directorate and others by district health authorities and board members of the new trusts, who are creating the NHS strategic framework.

The most pressing short-term need has been for programmes to help the district health authorities and units such as hospitals or day-care centres to adapt to their new role as purchasers of health care services.

The management consultant KPMG, for example, has worked with regional health authorities, educating finance managers in new procedures and approaches using distance learning materials and roadshows led by senior NHS managers.

A key issue has been the



At the forefront of health service reform: Dr Louise FitzGerald and Ken Jarrold

devolution of financial responsibility to operating units," says Colin Carmichael, a KPMG partner. "The roadshows are catalysts, providing a framework for senior financial managers, who then cascade the information throughout the NHS."

The training directorate has also worked with leading UK business schools to give NHS managers general business skills, following the principles of the 1986 report, "Better Management, Better Health". One of the most successful initiatives to emerge from the

report has been the Management Education Scheme by Open Learning (MESOL). Through a £2 million contract with the directorate, the Open Business School has given management training to more than 4,000 health professionals since March 1990.

Developed with the Institute of Health Service Management, the Open Business School course, Managing Health Services, is for NHS professionals in first-time management roles. Nurses, sisters, midwives, doctors, consultants and ambulance staff have taken part.

A second phase of the project, for middle managers, is being carried out by the Open Business School with polytechnics and regional health authorities. Six courses are planned during the next two years. The first, Managing Health Services: Information and Finance and Managing Health Service Delivery, will be available from November.

Warwick Business School has an important role in the NHS training initiative. The school is the main centre for the NHS management training scheme, providing "fast-track" management education for graduate recruits. About 100 of the most capable young NHS managers have passed through the programme since it started in 1986.

The programme takes 22 months to complete and combines work experience with formal training and projects.

Warwick teaching staff also work with individual health authorities on local training schemes. A pioneering programme, designed by the North-West Thames Regional Health Authority, mixes senior consultants with professional managers.

Dr Louise FitzGerald, who developed the programme with the authority, says: "It is novel for a health authority to work across professional boundaries like this, but it has benefits in encouraging them to work together in mixed teams on a real workplace problem."

Despite health authority initiatives and the training directorate's efforts, management training across the whole service is far more patchy, Ken Jarrold, the general manager of Wessex Regional Health Authority, who is involved in NHS management development, emphasises that few health authorities have yet tried to ensure that their senior staff are properly prepared to manage the NHS changes.

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Baldaro bemoans lack of BAF funding

# Cross country gets a great mileage running on empty

By DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

THERE is a belief in sport that you only get out of it what you put in. Not always. Take the case of the British Athletic Federation (BAF).

It puts next to nothing into cross country but has the best team in Europe: men and women who are the competitive equal of their counterparts on the track. Not that they are treated that way.

They prepared for the world championships in Boston last weekend with no financial support for training camps, medical back-up only for the select few who had proven themselves on the track, and, the final insult, a daily allowance a small fraction of that given to Britain's international athletics teams.

Bud Baldaro, the national coach for cross country, despairs of the attitude. He knows that no BAF initiative for support is likely, even after the results of the weekend, when the British squad yielded an individual gold medal, through Paula Radcliffe, and a set of senior men's team bronze medals.

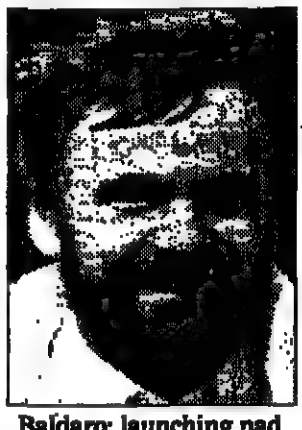
Sooner or later somebody is going to put an end to Kenya's domination of the men's team events — senior champions for the last seven years, junior winners for the last five — and there is great prestige to be had in doing so. The British deserve to be given a better chance.

"We now have a world cross-country champion and I bet I will get back and be told it is not a marketable commodity," Baldaro said. All the energies of Alan Pascoe Associates (APA), the

marketing agency to the BAF, have been concentrated on track and field. The initiative to bring the world cross-country championships to Durham city in 1995 came from Brendan Foster's company, Nova International, though it eventually won BAF backing and was clinched by Andy Norman, its promotions officer.

Fed up with waiting for money to come in through BAF channels, Baldaro has taken the task upon himself and believes he is on the point of securing a £250,000 sponsorship to take British cross country up to the 1995 world championships in Durham. He envisages that as a glorious occasion and if he has to raffle a few BAF feathers along the way, then so be it.

When he dared last November to go directly to APA, he was given not cash in hand but a rap on the knuckles. "It is not Bud Baldaro's job to be speaking to APA," the BAF said. He was advised to



Baldaro: launching pad

mit a development plan and did. The response? "I've not had any," he said. "If we cannot use our success here as a launching pad for 1995 we need a kick up the backside."

Meanwhile, Andrea Duke tries to find her way unaided through the medical jungle. Duke is an outstanding athlete, aged 18, she was the equal of Radcliffe before being struck by injury. Baldaro feels that, with Duke in the team, Britain's junior women, and not Ethiopia's, would have ended Kenya's run of team success. Yet her future is being left to chance.

She is not on the BAF register for medical help. "We need to make certain these people are being cared for," Baldaro urged. So, with no BAF hands to the shovel, he has started on the launching pad himself. The sponsorship that he is "reasonably optimistic" of securing would be spent on medical help and altitude training.

Commendably, the BAF has this year strengthened its commitment to medical insurance, covering 200 athletes, twice as many as before. But you have to prove yourself as a track athlete first; if you do cross country as well, that's fine. And Baldaro wants holding camps for his squads before world championships.

Ken Rickiuss, chairman of the BAF cross country commission, is concerned also. "The BAF has got to start thinking of us," he said. "We get less than one per cent of their total turnover." The medals brought back from Boston came on the cheap.



Riding high: Edgington, with backing and a world title, is in confident mood

## Edgington catches a gust of impetus for Olympics

By BARRY PICKTHALL

BARRIE Edgington, the new Olympic-class windsurfer world champion, has received a second, flippant towards his Olympic Games aspirations — a Times/Minet Supreme Award.

The £5,000 cash grant follows Edgington's superb performance in Singapore, where he ended nine years of world domination by the French. Indeed, French competitors filled the next four places, underlining that country's continued strength in the sport.

"Beating four Frenchmen in the world championship makes the Olympics (where only one national can take part) look easy," Edgington, who last week was a close second at the Italian pre-Olympic regatta at Anzio, said.

He knows from bitter experience, however, that there can be many a slip between now and winning selection for Barcelona in July. Four years ago, Edgington lost the Olympic berth on a cruel windshift while leading the last race of the British trials. Tied on points with two rivals, he built up a four-minute lead during the heat and was then faced with the dilemma of trying to cover both sailors when they split tacks on the final beat.

Edgington chose to cover his closest competitor, then had to watch Simon Goody being lifted to victory on the opposite side of the course.

"That lesson has motivated Barrie to approach this Olympic campaign in a much more professional manner," Ben Oakley, the national windsurfing coach, said. This included a two-month training programme in Australia before the world championship, where Edgington got his weight down to an optimum 68kg.

"If I hadn't done that training in Australia, I would not have won the world title," Edgington, aged 24, said, pointing to the performance of Jonathan Hackett, his British rival who finished 73rd in Singapore after taking a winter break from racing.

Edgington, who began windsurfing at the age of 11, first made his name as a marathon racer, capping victories in all the main British endurance races by winning the BIC 1,000km marathon from Barcelona to Genoa two years ago. He is also a three-time BIC class world champion.

Barrie is very good endurance competitor, a follow-on from his cross-country running days at school, and his ability to rise to the big occasion must make him a strong bet for a medal in Barcelona," Oakley said.

First he must sail through the British trials at the pre-Olympic regatta off Hyeres and Palma next month, which conclude with the world championship at Cadix in May. "The Times/Minet award will certainly help to ease the financial pressures, allowing me to focus all my efforts on training for the trials," Edgington said.

The London-based firm of international insurance brokers — to help fund Britain's preparations for the Olympic Games this year. The awards, which are administered by the Sports Aid Foundation, are being made to sportsmen and women whose outstanding performances have brought distinction and honour to British sport and are likely medal contenders.

THE TIMES/MINET SUPREME AWARD



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BOXING

## McKenzie's plan depends on a convincing win

By SRIKUMAR SEN, BOXING CORRESPONDENT

DUKE McKenzie, Britain's first double world champion, will get his chance tonight to prove that he is ready to go on to greater things. Should McKenzie put on one of his complete boxing displays in his World Boxing Organisation bantamweight title defence against Wilfredo Vargas, of Puerto Rico, at the Albert Hall, he will convince his manager, Mickey Duff, that he needs a more demanding challenge.

McKenzie could try a unification bout against the brilliant Orlando Cañizales, the International Boxing Federation champion, or move up to super-bantamweight to become the first Briton to win a world title at three different weights.

McKenzie will be watching to see how Thierry Jacob, of France, gets on this weekend when he challenges for the World Boxing Council super-bantamweight title. McKenzie came very close to defeating Jacob in Calais.

Vargas should bring the

best out of McKenzie. The Puerto Rican has been specially picked by Duff and should be made for McKenzie's stand-up boxing. McKenzie has been training with Colin McMillan, the British champion at feather weight, two weights heavier than bantam, so McKenzie should be able to handle the smaller Vargas. "McKenzie's got a fight on his hands," Duff said. "But McKenzie boxes better with better fighters."

Vargas, age 22, does not have McKenzie's experience. The Puerto Rican has had only 17 contests against McKenzie's 32. Most of his opponents have been short on quality. Being little more than a flyweight, Vargas could spend a frustrating night trying to get past the Englishman's jab. Vargas was stopped in eight rounds by fellow-countryman José Ruiz, a super-flyweight, and it would not be surprising if McKenzie, too, wins inside the distance.

## Stecca steps into open for spy job

By BRIAN STILES

MAURIZIO Stecca is one of the old-fashioned types — he likes to see his opponent in the flesh before he steps into the ring with him. The evidence of a video tape, with its faults-enhancing slow-motion, is fine, but he needs to see a rival dancing on the canvas before he is satisfied he has the full picture.

The rival for his World Boxing Organisation featherweight title is Colin McMillan, the talented Londoner, and Stecca has made the trip from Italy to be at ringside tonight to watch McMillan take on the tough Tommy Valdes, a California-based Mexican, at the Goresbrook Leisure Centre, Dagenham.

More than that, Stecca will be boxing on the undercard — an unusual departure for a boxer keen to hang on to his title. He will be exposing himself to the close scrutiny of McMillan and his handlers, risking revealing imperfections that his opponent can exploit. It is a sign of the Italian's confidence that he

thinks his bout with Ray Muniz, of the United States, will not present McMillan with too many insights.

He is also keen to experience the problems of boxing in front of an unfriendly British crowd, to prepare himself for a London defence of his title against McMillan in May — if the pair of them come through their bouts undefeated tonight.

The Londoner appears to have the harder task. He had been due to meet Steve Thibodeaux, but the American dropped out, and the late replacement is Valdes, a boxer who has been in the ring since 1985. McMillan's camp refused to take on last year.

"We rejected Valdes last May as being too tough an opponent to take on after his British title fight," Jonathan Rendall, McMillan's adviser, said. "But McMillan had to go on with it because otherwise TV might have pulled out and he did it because he did not want to disappoint his fans who have been waiting to see him again in east London."

VOLLEYBALL

## Britannia players vote to boycott Supercup

BRITANNIA Music, who retained the Royal Bank of Scotland English Women's Cup at Crystal Palace last Saturday, have pulled out of next month's Supercup, the annual tournament for the top four teams in both the men's and women's first divisions (Roddy McKenzie writes).

The London club, which plays off with Woolwich Brixton in the league title decider on April 5, is unhappy at the venue and at the way previous Supercups have been organised by the English Volleyball Association.

The event will take place on April 11 and 12 at Reading University, where there is limited spectator space. It is believed that Woolwich Brixton are also to hold a team meeting to decide whether to participate.

"It was a players' decision," Steve Colpus, the Britannia coach, said. "They were unhappy at the way the Supercup has been run in the past. Only one came out in favour of playing this year."

Britannia were without Amanda Glover, their injured England international, in their 3-1 win over Trafford in the cup final and had to adopt an unfamiliar two-setter system for the first time this season. Glover is expected to be back for the game with Woolwich Brixton.

RACING

## Dunwoody tops 700 winners

By RICHARD EVANS

RICHARD Dunwoody rode the 700th winner of his career on Tug Of Gold at Sandown yesterday and immediately declared: "I just need another 800 plus to catch Sou."

The talented Ulster-born jockey, first successful on Game Trust at Cheltenham in May 1983, did not have to wait long to start reducing the champion jockey's total as he completed a near 6-1 double on Al Hashimi.

"I will just ride as many winners as I can and keep going," said Dunwoody, whose tally for the season is now 103.

Tug Of Gold, winner of the Fulke Walwyn Kim Muir Chase at the Cheltenham Festival, could be a Grand National candidate next year as he appears to revel in a stamina test and jumps and travels better the further he goes.

With this year's Aintree spectacular only ten days away, Kim Bailey warned

would-be backers of Docklands Express that he would not run if the ground remained very soft.

Docklands Express, third behind Cool Ground in the Cheltenham Gold Cup, is very well handicapped but the Lambourn trainer said: "Four-and-a-half miles around Aintree in very soft ground is not what I would like to see him do."

Kings Fountain, who fell at the fifteenth fence in the Cheltenham Gold Cup when travelling well, is still a possible for the Martell Cup-Chase on the opening day of the three-day Liverpool meeting. "He has not schooled since he ran but will do so on Monday. He has to prove he is 100 per cent as he is too good to mock about with."

On a windswept day at Sandown where flags flew at half mast as a mark of respect to Jim Joel, the Royal Artillery Gold Cup was won by Camden Belle, leased especially for

the race by two trainers, Jack Berry and Mikey Heaton-Ellis.

The two ex-Gunners hatched the plan over a drink at the Tattersall's yearling sales last October, and the grey mare must have known the script as she battled back to win after being headed two fences from home by Gaelic Cherry.

Heaton-Ellis, who sent out his first runner at Doncaster last week, used to ride out for the father of Menin Muggers, trainer of Camden Belle.

The amateur jockey Philip "Pip" Nash yesterday pledged to race-ride again, despite suffering head injuries after a serious fall at Nottingham last week. Only hours after leaving the Queens Medical Centre, Nottingham, he said: "I am not giving up. I will be racing again." Mrs Nash plans to convalesce at her mother's home near Caerphilly.

CYCLING

## League to spread its wings

By PETER BRYAN

THE £2.7 million Scottish Provident city centre international racing league, which helped cycling to become the country's eleventh most popular televised sport in last year's third quarter, starts a new series of ten events in Leeds on May 13, with Jon Clay, the local rider, defending his title.

Clay, who led from start to finish last year, welcomed the spread of the venues, which include four newcomers in Peterborough, Brighton, Salisbury and Aberdeen, and the £50,000 prize-money.

The televised competition also includes a new element. Before the main 45-minute city-centre event, five selected riders will compete in a one-lap time-trial of the half-mile circuit for points in the overall event.

The organisers aim to have at least one overseas professional in every race, and regard the presence of Sean Kelly, the Irishman who leads the Perrier World Cup competition after winning the Milan-San Remo classic last week, as a priority.

PROGRAMME: May 13: Leeds; 18: Sheffield; 19: Peterborough; 21: Bristol; 26: Newcastle-upon-Tyne; 18: Brighton; 19: Salisbury; 26: Aberdeen; August 26: Aberdeen; 30: Edinburgh.

SPORT FOR THE DISABLED

## Ski decision is a blow to Britain

By ALEX RAMSAY

THE Winter Paralympics in France start today with problems over the organisation of the skiing events for blind athletes still unresolved.

Contrary to the International Blind Sports Association's regulations, the organisers in Tignes have combined the B2 and B3 classes in some of the Alpine and Nordic events. At the same time, they have prevented the blind skiers from competing in the men's downhill and slalom.

The official reasons for the decision come down to numbers. There were too few skiers entered for some classes in the giant slalom and super giant slalom while, in the downhill, there were too many entrants overall and the organisers felt they had to eliminate some competitors.

The decision was made by the International Co-ordinating Committee (ICC) together with the race organisers in France. "The events would have to be cancelled if there were not enough skiers," Joan Scruton of the ICC said. "In order to give the athletes the opportunity to compete we combined the classes."

Zach Freeth, head of the British delegation, describes the move as "an absolute non-

sense" and the British will not be alone in making an official protest about the decision.

"It is bureaucracy gone mad," Freeth said. "Basically it means the person who can see the best, the B3, is competing against someone with a greater disadvantage. The B2s haven't a chance."

The decision has affected Britain's medal hopes. Richard Burt is a downhill and slalom specialist who won the bronze medal in both events at the 1990 world championships at the age of 16.

Two years later, having been unbeaten in Europe for the last two seasons, he had hoped to improve on that result in Tignes. But he has been relegated to just two events, the giant and super-giant slaloms.

While he carries on training, his family is less than impressed with the organisers. "I can't understand their thinking," Robert Burt, Richard's father, said.

"Richard races and trains with able-bodied skiers all the time and he's reaching 70mph plus in the downhill. It's not as if blind skiers can't do the downhill. And combining the classes is like asking Dave Moorcroft to do the high hurdles."

## Indoor windsurfing beats Irish rugby

By HENRY KELLY

THERE was almost too much good sport on television in the last seven days. On the fields of play and off, there seemed never a dull moment.

Let's get the bad bit out of the way first: I'm afraid my own dear countrymen playing rugby are no longer fit to be considered good enough to compete at the top international level. I know somebody has to come last, but getting the wooden spoon in the rugby championship again is almost taking the Michael. All I can suggest is that Ireland lead the field in unisex rugby football: we could begin by recruiting Catharina McKiernan, who ran out in the snow of Boston to finish a brilliant second to Lynn Jennings in the world cross country championship on Saturday.

Tucked away on Saturday morning on Channel 4 was a quite splendid interview between the novelist, Jilly Cooper, and the dearest old thing

SPORT ON TELEVISION

THE WEEK IN REVIEW

of them all, Henry "Blowers" Blofeld. It's a pity some of the so-called chat show hosts don't take a leaf from Blofeld's book.

His technique is earth-shattering. He sits the interviewee down and asks them intelligent questions. He listens to the answers and after a while the programme ends. It'll never catch on.

A year ago in this column, when I reviewed indoor rock-climbing from Birmingham, I warned that indoor hang-gliding was next. Channel 4 on Saturday morning had indoor windsurfing. Actually it was quite fun and looked a lot safer than the real thing.

I don't want to whinge about how rain helped England into the cricket World Cup final. Frankly, I couldn't care less: rules is rules, every-

one knew about them beforehand: nobody ever said it was always meant to be fair and, anyway, South Africa took a chance. Fielded first, didn't bowl enough overs, and really have only themselves to blame. So there.

What worries me is the way England bowled and fielded. I have seen better long hops in a Lord's Taverners' match than those bowled by Botham and Small. I have seen under-11s field with more enthusiasm than Lamb; and if Stewart doesn't know that a wicketkeeper either stands right up or fully back, he should get someone to give him an hour's coaching on the basic principles. And what was Gooch doing fielding on the boundary? In one-day cricket, even more than in the real game, the captain's position is as close to the action as possible. Nevertheless, I hope England win.

Saturday's rugby coverage was remarkable for what Bill McLaren did not say when at least one Welsh forward should have been sent off the

pitch at Cardiff Arms Park during the game against Scotland. Two French players were sent off a month ago for exactly the same type of behaviour, and all the referee did was wag a finger and all the great Bill said was a sort of stifled "but-but". All I can assume is that McLaren sometimes despairs of what he sees happening on the field of his beloved rugby football.

Channel 4 has stolen another march on the BBC's

coverage of racing. Saturday saw the first big race of the Flat season, the Lincoln Handicap, a race hated by punters, jockeys and most people who can read and write. To brighten it up, Channel 4 had Derek Thompson doing the rounds of Doncaster: into the press room to talk to the hacks, four of whom had a share in a horse which finished in nineteenth place; into Wetherbys to see where and how horses are entered for races; around the paddock area to talk to racegoers; and into the tented village to have a few words with the stall holders.

The BBC has been covering, for goodness knows how long and they've never to my knowledge done anything like this. All we get is patronising cackle from a few fashion experts come Royal Ascot.

Finally, a confession: I watched the Mexican grand prix, which Nigel Mansell won, and, what's more... I enjoyed it!



Stewart: wrong position







# Plenty of good and bad with just a little ugly

Being stationed, as it were, in New Zealand during the World Cup was to be present at something more than a resurgence.

The rugby posts are back in the ground there now, but for the best part of a month, cricket brought the people together in a way that it had not done before.

Here in Australia, it is being made to seem more like an intrusion, but only because of the disappointment caused by the failure of the Australian side to live up to public expectation.

One's first impression of seeing them play India in the Test match at Adelaide at the end of January was that they had lost their edge. The young men were being held back by the old, the Waugh, Mark and Stephen, were not being appreciated. Australia were not as good a side as they thought they were, or as they could have

been. And by the time they saw the signs, it was too late. There was no such complicity elsewhere, even if England were beaten by Zimbabwe. Although the Zimbabweans must know they are not good enough for Test cricket, I don't see why they should not be granted



Azharuddin: burden

some sort of status that would allow them to play official one-day internationals, other than, as now, only in the World Cup.

They need encouragement and that should be a way of providing it.

The cricket I saw in New Zealand was a medley of the uncommonly good, the averagely good, the loose, and just occasionally, the ugly.

The fact that Chris Harris, of New Zealand, a splendid fielder but as a bowler not much more than a club trundler, is presently the chief wicket-taker in the competition is a commentary in itself.

The part played by Dipak Patel is worthy of special

## JOHN WOODCOCK IN MELBOURNE

mention. When the play of opening their bowling with him was so successful, it gave New Zealand the confidence to lead and not merely to follow. It was designed quite as much to give New Zealand the initiative as to deny it to their opponents.

The leg breaks and googlies of Pakistan's Mushtaq Ahmed had the same effect of unsettling batsmen accustomed to something faster but much less complicated.

Of the batsmen who were given the chance to play properly through going in high enough in the order, Martin Crowe led the way. Others to bring special distinction, sometimes even enchantment, to the matches were Azharuddin, Tendulkar, Kirsten, Lara (only over-confi-

dence may stop him from becoming very good), Ramiz Raja and Inzamam.

As an aggressor whose hitting made bowlers quaver, Greatbatch assumed the mantle of Botham. His contribution to New Zealand's Indian summer can hardly be over-rated.

It was a delight, too, to see Sri Lanka turn a match with their fielding against South Africa as well.

They were suddenly inspired, providing the sort of turn-up that is the essence of the World Cup.

West Indies missed Viv Richards more than South Africa missed Jimmy Cook, or even Pakistan have missed Waqar Younis. If they and India are to get the best out of Richardson and Azharuddin, two wonderfully talented batsmen, they

should relieve them of the hassle and burden of captaincy.

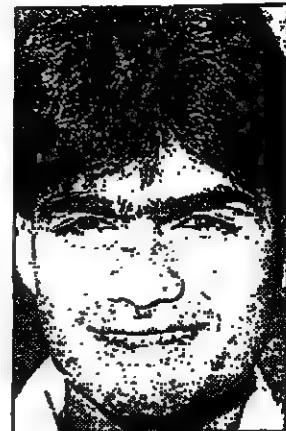
The occasion proved a favourable and fitting one for South Africa's return to the international game; next they have to apply themselves to the technically more demanding business of Test cricket.

In New Zealand, they were thought to be inclined to arrogance, though I can't say I noticed it myself. In Jonty Rhodes, they had one of the characters of the World Cup, whose fielding gave spectators as much pleasure as it so obviously did to many of his side.

I never saw him miss anything, nor, for that matter, anybody, in any of the sides, miss a catch on the boundary. The wicketkeeping has been conspicuously undistinguished and the appealing spontaneously spurious. The ugliness which I referred showed itself in the

venom in which batsmen were sometimes seen off by bowlers who had just dismissed them — with an expletive or a gratuitous gesture.

England were as bad as anybody at it, and South Africa not much better. It is a thoroughly objectionable



Patel: initiative

practice, and one which umpires consistently ignore.

By and large, though, the umpiring in New Zealand was pretty good. The only reason why David Shepherd was not standing in today's final is because he is an Englishman. By some way, he finished at the top of the unpublished points table.

Next in line was Steve Bucknor, from Jamaica, and the New Zealander, Brian Aldridge, who were taking the final today. South Africa, Sri Lanka and Zimbabwe were well served by Karl Liebenberg.

Julius Buuljens and Ian Robinson. There were, of course, bad decisions. They are inevitable. But they were accepted in good faith because of being made by manifestly unaligned umpires. As in India and Pakistan in 1987, the neutral panel spared us from many an accusation of cheating, perhaps even from a writ or two.

## Rain ruling has far-reaching implications

# South Africa miss their chance to play decisive role

FROM DAVID MILLER IN MELBOURNE

IT TAKES an extreme degree of perversity or stupidity, or both, to attempt to take cover behind the arbitrary regulations that led to the fiasco of the World Cup semi-final in Sydney. The Australian Cricket Board (ACB) continues to do so, having performed a grave disservice not only to the game but, without exaggeration, I believe, to South African social stability.

Without even addressing me — a stranger to them — two Australian officials in the hotel lift contemptuously flicked at the evening paper back page in my hand, with its story of the ACB's rebuff of Imran Khan's criticism. A lot of nonsense, they said defensively.

The decision to adjust the total in Sydney denied South Africa the chance of reaching the final instead of England. That would undoubtedly have been of immense benefit not only to South African cricket but to South African social change. The ruling, therefore, had a special, if unintentional, profundity.

What has happened in the past months — in rugby union, cricket and other sports and embracing the International Olympic Committee's readmission of South

Africa — has demonstrated what I have argued for the past ten years: that the re-establishment of international sport, in South Africa like nowhere else, would be a force to help accelerate domestic liberalisation.

When South Africa's team becomes, within a few years, of mixed race, it and England's will be the most conspicuously so among leading cricket nations.

Cricket is not excluded from the world of double standards, and South Africa, needing every incentive available, could have done without Sunday's perceived misfortune; never mind that they bowled negatively.

Nobody will know just how influential on the recent referendum was the casual comment by Geoff Dakin, president of the new United Cricket Board and here with the team, that they would return home if the referendum proved negative. Whatever domestic violence may still lie ahead, the tide is running for common sense, and nothing could better illustrate this than the forthcoming South African tour of West Indies, which will include matches by their under-19 team against Jamaica, Trinidad and Barbados.

These juniors are the product of the Nuffield-sponsored coaching academy, which this season has put about \$600,000 into the game. The party for the West Indies will consist of six blacks, four coloured, four whites and one Indian; it can only be a matter of months, rather than years, before they are all known simply as South Africans.

Pressing for senior inclusion soon may be Herschelle Gibbs, a right-hand batsman who has represented Western Province A, and Louis Mazarizana and Morgan Mfobo, a wicketkeeper and off-spinner, respectively. Peter van der Merwe, the former South African captain, considers that it may take several years before this happens, but the basis of the equation is emphatically established. South Africa were, with England and Australia, the founding members of the International Cricket Conference, and it will be no surprise if they quickly regain a formidable status on the field.

Jackie McGlew is team manager of the under-19 side, and his assistant will be Ray Mali, a black from the Alice township area closely associated with the African National Congress.

"When Nelson Mandela saw the job we're doing, making cricket the role-model for lifting the disadvantaged past, he felt at ease to support us all down the line," Dakin said. The forthcoming tour is "enormously exciting". Dr Ali Bacher, the guiding hand of South Africa's development programme, said last night.

It is no news that South Africa is sports-mad. Its cricket has a bigger sponsorship budget than Australia's, which partially explains how they have been able to excel in the World Cup coming directly from years of isolation. The biggest problem will be to overcome the politicisation of schoolteachers, yet with thousands of non-whites now nursing the ambition to be a "Springbok", the process should not be impossible.



Richardson: unable to inspire West Indies after taking over from Richards

SEMI-FINAL RESULTS: New Zealand 202-7 (M D Crowe 91, R Rutherford 50), Pakistan 204-9 (Imran-ul-Haq 60, Javed Miandad 57 not out, England 228-6 (G A Hinch 80), South Africa 232-6 (S B Mahanama 55), Sri Lanka 314-7 (A Ranasinghe 88 not out, M A R Samarasekera 51, S B Mahanama 55)										
QUALIFYING TABLE AND RESULTS										
	P	W	L	NR	PTS	DIFF				
New Zealand	7	1	0	0	14	+258				
England	6	2	0	0	11	+247				
South Africa	5	3	0	0	10	+113				
Pakistan	5	2	1	0	9	+16				
Australia	4	4	0	0	8	+20				
West Indies	4	2	1	0	7	+67				
India	3	2	1	0	6	+10				
Sri Lanka	3	2	1	0	6	+18				
Zimbabwe	3	1	1	1	5	-14				
Net run-rate (NRR) is the difference between batting and bowling rates. Runs scored in no-result matches are not included.										
ROUND-ROBIN RESULTS: New Zealand 246-6 (M D Crowe 100 not out, K Rutherford 57), Australia 211 (D C Boon 100, England 212 (P A Smith 51, G A Hinch 80), India 227 (R J Shastri 57), Pakistan 222-2 (Imran-ul-Haq 102, Javed Miandad 57 not out, West Indies 221-7 (D L Haynes 93 not out, S C Lara 88 not out), Zimbabwe 313-4 (A Flower 115 not out, A C Walker 68 not out, K J Amari 52, Sri Lanka 314-7 (A Ranasinghe 88 not out, M A R Samarasekera 51, S B Mahanama 55)										
WEST INDIES A: First innings										
G R Lambert c Crowe b Gray	47									
R G Samuels c Ramprakash b Gray	14									
C A Best c Morris b Crowe	1									
J C Adams c Rhodes b Wadlin	23									
N O Perry c and b Stephenson	24									
N J Murray lbw b Stephenson	11									
K C D Benjamin not out	22									
A J Joseph c and b Stephenson	11									
Extras (b 5, lb 6, nb 13)	28									
Total	302									
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-38, 2-58, 3-102, 4-182, 5-207, 6-220, 7-254, 8-298										
BOWLING: Munton 21-4-85-1, Crowe 12-4-40-0, Wadlin 18-3-64-1, Crowe 38-8-90-4, Ramprakash 51-8-40-1, Stephenson 11-1-4-22-4										
WEST INDIES A: Second innings										
G R Lambert c Crowe b Gray	47									
R G Samuels c Ramprakash b Crowe	21									
C A Best not out	1									
J C Adams c Rhodes b Wadlin	23									
N O Perry c and b Stephenson	24									
N J Murray lbw b Stephenson	11									
K C D Benjamin not out	22									
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WEST INDIES B: First innings										
G R Lambert c Crowe b Gray	47									
R G Samuels c Ramprakash b Gray	14									
C A Best c Morris b Crowe	1									
J C Adams c Rhodes b Wadlin	23									
N O Perry c and b Stephenson	24									
N J Murray lbw b Stephenson	11									
K C D Benjamin not out	22									
A J Joseph c and b Stephenson	11									
Extras (b 5, lb 6, nb 13)	28									
Total	302									
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R G Samuels c Ramprakash b Crowe	21									
C A Best not out	1									
J C Adams c Rhodes b Wadlin	23									
N O Perry c and b Stephenson	24									
N J Murray lbw b Stephenson	11									
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## The players who will have few happy memories

FROM ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT IN MELBOURNE

THE talk of the World Cup, these past few days, has been of crazy rules and inflexible officialdom. The stars of the show, the players, have been shifted backstage to make room for the soap opera involving the men who made the rules and the men who challenge them.

When the fuss subsides, however, it will be seen that the disappointments of this competition do not begin and end with foxy legislation. They extend to the players, itself and to a lengthy list of players, from whom much was expected and precious little delivered. On cup final day, it is poignant to reflect on those for whom the tournament is nothing but a bad memory.

Opening the batting for the Alternative World Cup XI would be Geoff Marsh, of Australia, and Ravi Shastri, of India. It is an appropriate pairing and they may spend their time in mid-pitch consoling each other, for between them they were vilified to a far greater extent than anyone else involved in the competition, the law makers possibly apart.

Both belong to a breed of batsmen now widely believed to be obsolete in one-day cricket, the anchor men. Both, in the past, have been credited with the skill and intelligence coolly to supervise an entire innings. But both fell heavily from grace and were dropped.

Marsh's removal caused bitterness in the Australian camp, where he is hugely popular and has been a supportive vice-captain to Allan Border. Shastri's removal was virtually demanded from afar when Indian supporters in his native Bombay protested about his slow batting by laying siege to his family home.

Two captains bat at three and four. Richie Richardson had a tough act to follow when taking on the West Indies team, post-Richards, and in this environment he showed alarming frailties. His on-field leadership was so understated that, at times, the team turned to Des Haynes for inspiration, and his batting wilted under the strain.

Border has been in charge too long for his lack of runs to be blamed on responsibility.

But a return of 61 runs from eight innings was startlingly poor and he ended the tournament admitting he must work on his game. He should start by examining his habit of missing full-length inswingers.

The No. 5 position would be contested by Salim Malik and Allan Lamb. As their countries were involved in today's final, there was a chance of redemption for one or both, but Malik's 115 runs, capped by his first-ball exit in the semi-final, was a sequence which took some explaining. The disappointment in Lamb reflects as much on his fitness as form; by the time he was fit to play, he was plainly out of form. Carl Hooper, of West Indies, bats at six and bowls off breaks. On his form of the past month, he does neither very well. He is a batsman of great natural talent, too often compromised by hot-headed things.

The seam bowling all-rounder is Adrian Kuiper. The stocky South African came here burdened with the reputation of an awesome hitter and destructive bowler, a Bothamesque figure. He did sadly little to justify the label.

Wicketkeeping has not been a strong suit, except in the area of sledging and other unedifying conduct. India's Kiran More was prominent in this regard and his contempt with Javed Miandad was one of the flashpoints. Three seam bowlers make up the sad side. In an unfamiliar post-West Indian attack, nobody disappointed more than Malcolm Marshall, who bowled waywardly, then broke down and finally announced his retirement. He has been a great bowler but his time had plainly come.

Australia's Bruce Reid relies on rhythm and could find none until it was too late. A Reid in form might just have transformed the team enough for them, not Pakistan, to be in today's final.

The last place in the team of disappointments goes to Waqar Younis, the thrillingly quick Pakistani. But he was too injured to play, a near injury protest. Precisely. That was the disappointment — though probably not for England's batsmen today.

## Scrap for next Cup

ENGLAND are ready to start campaigning for the right to stage the next World Cup in either 1995 or 1996. Alan Smith, the chief executive of the Test and County Cricket Board (TCCB), has already begun work on pursuing England's claim amid fears that a "gentleman's agreement" could count for nothing when money starts talking.

"The International Cricket Council took a decision in principle some time ago that a rota system should be used for staging the World Cup, subject to a satisfactory financial proposal being made by the country concerned," Smith said. "We intend to ask

the ICC to clarify and restate the position at the meeting in July."

As far as England are concerned, a rota would put them next in line. Financial and logistical problems effectively discount the West Indies and Sri Lanka. Pakistan and South Africa, however, have indicated they will compete against England, given the chance. Both would almost certainly be able to offer a more lucrative deal than that put forward by the TCCB.

Money is most likely to be the deciding factor if the 19 associate members — such as Argentina, Bangladesh and Kenya — have a say.

## CRICKET

# West Indies wrap up A-team series

FROM RICHARD STREETON IN AINORVALE, ST VINCENT  
ENGLAND A's last nine wickets produced only a further 62 runs yesterday as they were all out for 108 against West Indies in the second unofficial Test match here.

Lambert was brilliantly caught right-handed by

Ramprakash at mid-wicket, but West Indies A, needing 48, went on to win by nine wickets and take a 2-0 lead in the three-match series.

West Indies looked stronger in every department, particularly bowling. There was nothing in the pitch to explain the England batting

failure and the four West Indian fast bowlers were able to extract life from its hard, dry surface.

Keith Fletcher, the England team manager, said: "We were undone by one superb bowling on what was still a good pitch. Their bowling was very good, they held their catches and their senior side could not have done much better."

Benjamin and Joseph again looked the most likely of the fast bowlers. Benjamin began the England rout after half an hour when Ramprakash could not keep down a rising ball.

Thorpe was caught behind against one that slanted across his body, a dismissal which was the prelude to the last six wickets falling for 12 runs.

ENGLAND A: First innings 241 (P Johnson 58, NO Perry 47).  
Second innings  
D J Bicknell b Benjamin 20  
H Morris c Murray b Perry 20  
M R Ramprakash c Lambert b Benjamin 5

P Johnson c Murray b Joseph 4  
G P Thorpe c Murray b Gray 14  
J P Stephenson c Lambert b Perry 25  
R J Rhodes c Best b Perry 2  
R O B Croft c Gray b Wadlin 2  
D G Cook not out 3  
T A Munton b Wadlin 4  
S I Wadlin c Lambert b Perry 10  
Extras (b 2, lb 5, nb 3) 13  
Total 108

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-44, 2-55, 3-85, 4-88, 5-98, 6-105, 7-105, 8-105, 9-105

BOWLING: Munton 21-4-85-1, Crowe 12-4-40-0, Wadlin 18-3-64-1, Crowe 38-8-90-4, Ramprakash 51-8-40-1, Stephenson 11-1-4-22-4

WEST INDIES A: First innings  
G R Lambert c Crowe b Gray 47  
R G Samuels c Ramprakash b Crowe 21  
C A Best c Morris b Crowe 1  
J C Adams c Rhodes b Wadlin 23  
N O Perry c and b Stephenson 24  
N J Murray lbw b Stephenson 11  
K C D Benjamin not out 22  
A J Joseph c and b Stephenson 11  
Extras (b 5, lb 6, nb 13) 28  
Total 302

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-38, 2-58, 3-102, 4-182, 5-207, 6-220, 7-254, 8-298

BOWLING: Munton 21-4-85-1, Crowe 12-4-40-0, Wadlin 18-3-64-1, Crowe 38-8-90-4, Ramprakash 51-8-40-1, Stephenson 11-1-4-22-4

Umpires: D Archer and G Johnson.

## YACHTING

# Fifth place puts Smith in good shape for title

FROM BARRY PICKTHALL IN CÁDIZ, SPAIN

LAWRIE Smith continued his challenge for the Soling class world crown with a fine fifth place in yesterday's fourth race in the championship.

Racing against testing 20- to 25-knot winds and a building swell running across the Bay of Cadiz that cost two rigs and a much larger number of spinners, Smith and his crew battled their way up from eleventh at the first weather mark to second place at one point.

Their slip to fifth came on the last beat, while keeping a loose cover on Glyn Charles and his crew, Smith's closest rivals for the British berth at the Olympic regatta, for which this world championship is a trial.

Last night, Smith expected further good news from the

race jury, who had been locked in meetings all day to resolve the debacle caused by the controversial change of course during the second race.

If reinstated, Smith and his crew will have a first, third and fifth to their credit and lead the world championship overall.

Yesterday's race was won by Sergei Pichugin.

Mahany, the North American champion, who probably represents Smith's closest threat for the world championship, was seventh.

Racing for the Europe class European championship off Cadiz was cancelled.

RESULTS: Fourth race: 1. S Pichugin (GB); 2. R Hane (Neth); 3. M Holberg (Den); 4. G. G. (Den













**How Hilary Williams took on British Gas and won**



# LIFE & TIMES

WEDNESDAY MARCH 25 1992



**Can this man save the BBC from ratings failure?**

## Empires fall but the band plays on

**Richard Morrison recalls 150 years of the Vienna Philharmonic, with its ruthless, masculine and majestic tradition**

In one sense Hector Berlioz, the French romantic composer, said it all. "There are orchestras that are as good, but none better. In addition to its vivacity, poise and extreme technical efficiency, it has a most beautiful tone. It is ideal in opera, superb in symphonic music."

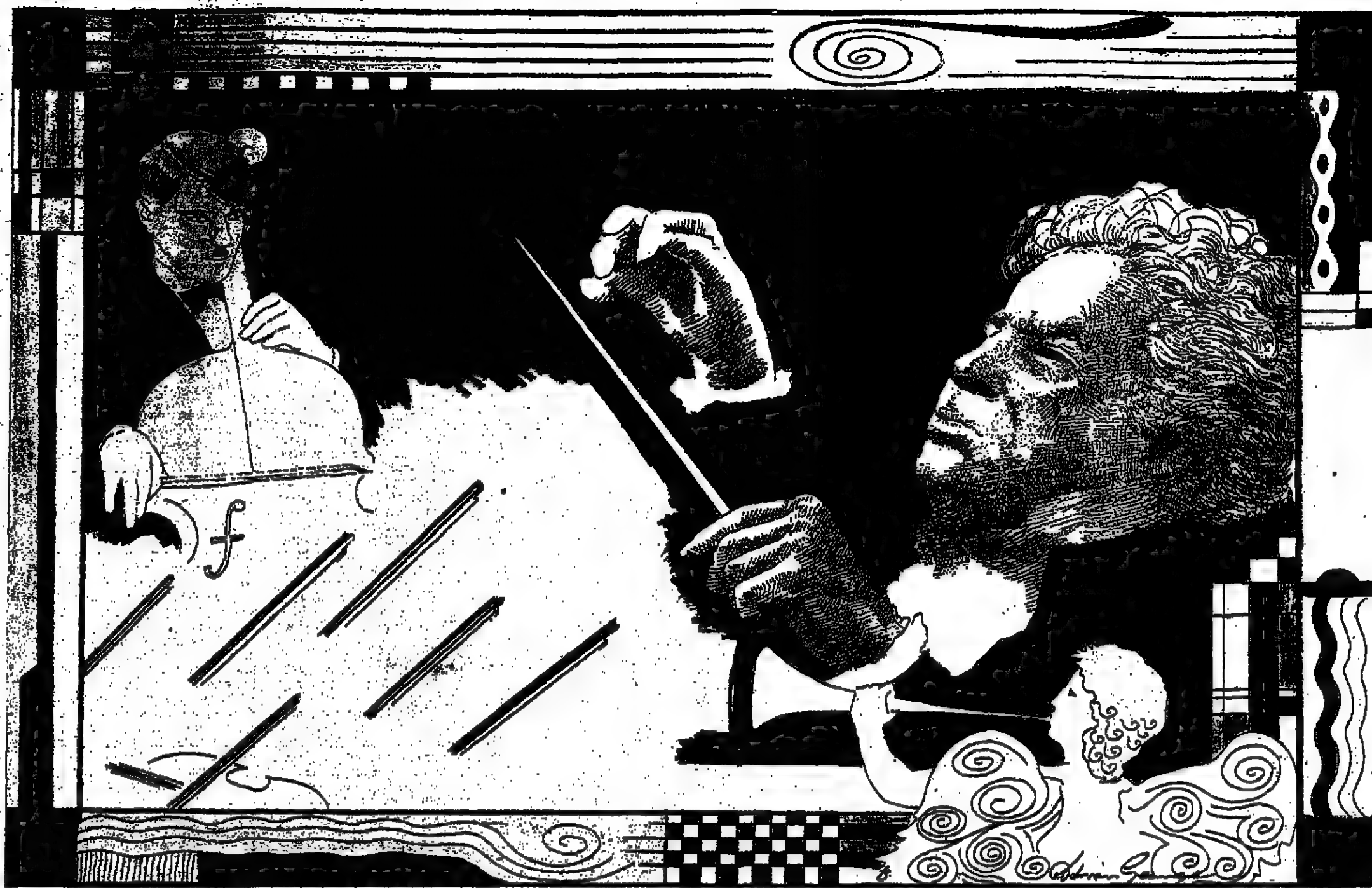
Berlioz was writing in the mid-1840s about the orchestra of the Vienna Court Opera, which had just diversified into freelance concert work. This Saturday that same orchestra, now better known as the Vienna Philharmonic, celebrates its 150th anniversary. It remains the world's most awesome performing ensemble: self-governing, self-renewing, haughty and magnificent; guarding its traditions as ferociously as any medieval crafts guild; an eternal yardstick by which every other orchestra is judged.

Berlioz, however, could not foresee the paradoxes and dark ironies that lay in the Philharmonic's future. How does an institution remain so dominant, yet so entrenched in changelessness? What price the supposed "civilising power" of great music, when the history of this orchestra includes incessant accusations of misogyny, anti-Semitism and mean-spiritedness? And why does an ensemble producing such sweet concord also have a morbid penchant for strident offstage discord?

The Vienna State Opera (where the Philharmonic still plays for 70 per cent of its time) has been a conductors' graveyard. The orchestra's founder, Otto Nicolai, set the trend 150 years ago: he resigned after internal wrangling and departed for Berlin. Later, in 1901, Claudio Abbado, the latest Opera director, did exactly the same thing. His reign had begun with ecstatically received performances. Then the inevitable whispering campaign started. "That sort of thing has been going on in Vienna for at least a century," says Franz Welser-Möst, the young Austrian conductor in charge of the London Philharmonic. "Something in our Austrian character causes us to bring down those we first greet as heroes."

Nobody disputes that. Mahler, Böhm and Karajan all vacated the Vienna Opera job in strained circumstances. Lorin Maazel's tenure in 1983 had hardly started before it ended in recriminations. Little seems to have changed since the Archbishop of Salzburg's chamberlain gave counsel to the young Mozart: "A man's reputation in Vienna lasts a very short time. At first you are overwhelmed with praise and make a lot of money... after a few months the Viennese want something new."

Yet even those with reason to hate the Viennese musicians still seem awed by the music-making. Take the composer Bruckner. The Vienna Philharmonic declared his Second Symphony unplayable, and cruelly sabotaged the premiere of his Third. But when he was invited to conduct the orchestra, Bruckner mounted the podium for the rehearsal and stood



motionless for several minutes, a radiant smile on his face. "We are quite ready, Herr Bruckner, do begin," urged the orchestra's leader. "Oh no," said Bruckner. "After you, gentlemen."

The Philharmonic is a classic product of the Biedermeier Period: the era that later generations of Austrians regarded as a lost golden age, when all was concordant, balanced and in its rightful place. Later, Austria would experience one national trauma after another: the scandal of Mayerling, the collapse of the Habsburg empire, Nazi rule, two defeats in war, foreign occupation. Through all this, the Philharmonic not only survived but grew in magisterial authority: one last, shining beacon attesting to Vienna's fading glory.

Apart from its matchless, silky sound, what makes the Vienna Philharmonic unique is its refusal to allow conductors to dominate it. This orchestra does not have "principal conductors". A conductor is "invited to make music": the implication is that here is a partnership of equals. Even the most ruthless autocrats can find that daunting. Karajan once explained why he preferred the Berlin to the Vienna Philharmonic. "If I tell the Berliners to step forward, they do it. If I tell the Viennese to step forward, they do it. But then they ask why."

In musical terms, the Philharmonic has always been vulnerable to two charges: that it resists

attempts to change the way it plays the classics, and that it shuns modern music. Mahler sensed that even before he arrived: "Suppose I did come to Vienna," he wrote to a friend. "With my attitude, what would happen to me? The first time I tried to impose my interpretation of a Beethoven symphony upon the celebrated Philharmonic, the most hateful battle would ensue." He was right.

The paradox of Viennese musical life is that this hatred of the new, this constant taking refuge in comfortable nostalgia, has survived alongside Vienna's reputation as cradle or magnet for music's revolutionaries: Beethoven, Mahler, Schoenberg, Berg, Webern. Vienna hated them all, until they were safely dead. Composers were expected to be like good dinner-table conversation: elegant and entertaining, not soul-searching and provocative.

This "closed mind" attitude has given the Vienna Philharmonic a bad press in many quarters. "True, Vienna is a unique music city," wrote the conductor Antal Dorati, "and it is quite in order that the Viennese musicians of today should be proud of this heritage. But pride without humility is conceit, and worthless."

"Vienna still thinks of itself as the centre of a great empire," says Welser-Möst. "But a player recently said to me: we have ridden our

high horse too long; we were due for a fall." Nemesis has indeed come, and at the worst time as this anniversary year was launched. Carlos Kleiber, that reclusive conducting genius, was booked for the 1992 New Year's Day concert. Word got around that he was paid \$300,000, with television fees on top. That was bad enough: it dented the Philharmonic's reputation as an "equal partner" with its conductors.

Worse was to follow. In return for his vast fee, Kleiber agreed to tour Japan with the orchestra. The Japanese promoters gleefully hiked ticket prices to around £200 a concert. A predictable disaster struck: Kleiber withdrew. It was a dismal start to the anniversary year.

There is a darker reason why this orchestra is hated by some: the recurring anti-Semitism in its history. That should be put in context. Viennese society was blatantly anti-Semitic from the 1890s onwards: the city that nurtured the young Hitler was also the city that conspired against Mahler. The fact that Mahler had cynically turned Catholic to gain his Vienna appointment made no difference.

The irony is that Vienna was not only a very Jewish city, but also that the Jews played a dominant role in cultural life. So the shock of the Anschluss, and of the subsequent purging of Jews from all of Austria's artistic organisations, was enormous.

Those were the most shameful years in the Philharmonic's history. In 1938 all the orchestra's Jewish members were dismissed. Six were subsequently killed in concentration camps. And yet the band played on.

How strange, then, that in modern times the one conductor apparently idolised in Vienna was Leonard Bernstein, an American Jew. Or perhaps it isn't strange at all. Bernstein, like Mahler, walked into Vienna with his eyes open. He wanted the Vienna Opera to perform his operas. In return the Viennese struck a Faustian bargain: Bernstein should conduct an evening of Wagner in Vienna.

In New York, Bernstein's Jewish friends were shocked. A fellow composer, Gunther Schuller, wrote: "It is perverse that Lenny should have this love-affair with the most anti-Semitic of cities. The first thing most Viennese musicians do when someone new arrives is find out if he's a Jew." Bernstein himself wrestled with the morality of his decision in typically flamboyant fashion: he made a film of himself delivering a monologue addressed to Sigmund Freud, in which he asked himself "what's a nice Jewish boy like you doing in a place like this playing racist music?" He probably believed that his triumph in Vienna was, in part, a symptom of guilty Viennese consciences.

That useful American saying — "if it ain't broke, don't fix it" —

could be the motto of the Vienna Philharmonic. Change one detail in the way we run our orchestra, the players argue, and the whole magical formula will be lost. That is why, if you ask a Vienna Philharmonic player the reason for his orchestra being so reluctant to admit women players, he will ask you (with icy Austrian courtesy) to point out the precise deficiencies that would be improved by so radical a departure from tradition.

When Mahler finally gave up his struggle with his Viennese musicians, he wrote them a letter of touching sadness: "Instead of the complete, rounded whole, such as I had hoped for, I leave behind the incomplete, the fragmentary."

as a man seems fated to do." From his point of view, he did. But the Vienna Philharmonic would say that he left them exactly as he found them: a great orchestra whose perceived destiny is to stay exactly the same, forever.

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**TOMORROW**  
Anthony Holden on the Oscars

## If only midnight pixies emptied the bin

One of the more difficult things to accept about being newly single is that there is no one to strike chore-bargains with. You know the sort of thing: "If you do the breakfast, I'll take the bin out"; "I'll get the milk, you get the papers." Make such fair's-fair suggestions to a cat, I find, and it will just look preoccupied, and suddenly remember an urgent appointment outside.

The beauty of efficient teamwork is that it cuts through the grease and grime of household activity with a brisk one-two, reminiscent of the old telly adverts for Flash. Wisshh, woosshh, all done. "You make a cup of tea, while I lie full-out on this sofa, preventing it from bucking up and killing somebody."

Jobs that can't be tackled simultaneously stretch out instead in long miserable single file, like prisoners on a chain-gang, and are dealt with on the weary principle of one-damn-thing-after-another. The plodding linear quality is depressing. Sometimes you forget, of course, and glance optimistically at the bin, fleetingly wondering whether someone else has taken out the rubbish. But they usually have not. The cheerful midnight pixie with bucket and

mop is a sweet and potent myth, but it is cruelly misleading.

Looking on the bright side, however, there is great consolation in the knowledge that the Mr Nobody who takes out the bin is also the Mr Nobody who moves things around so that you can't find them. Take the TV remote control, for example. In my old cohabiting days, how many times did I search frantically among sofa cushions for it, knowing in my heavy heart that it was probably travelling anti-clockwise on the M25 by now, snug in a coat pocket on the back seat of the boyfriend's car? Living alone, then, it is no wonder you rejoice that things remain precisely where you left them. You feel a great warmth inside on the day you realise that if you haven't finished the marmalade, there is still some marmalade left. The only interference I have experienced since living alone was when I emerged from the bath one day to discover the word "trijwqz" on my otherwise blank word-processor screen. I gulped, and stood stock still for a minute, feeling the pulse race in my neck. And then I realised that a cat had made a dash across the keyboard.

I mention all this because last week I left a friend alone in my flat

### SINGLE LIFE

**Lynne Truss ponders a long list of chores and only herself to do them**



for a couple of hours, and when I came back I realised I could retrace virtually every moment of my stay, just by observing all the things he had moved from their usual places. The loo seat was up. A plate with toast crumbs awaited me on the draining-board, along with a knife tinged with Marmite. A couple of inches of wine had gone from an opened bottle, and a glass with dregs in it was rolling on

the living-room floor. A book had been replaced in the wrong position on a shelf, a window opened (and not closed again), the back-door key hidden so successfully it took me two hours to find it. I moved stealthily around the flat, feeling a bit like Sherlock Holmes on the trail of exotic cigar-ash. "He's been here, too!" I whispered excitedly. "See, he has moved these cassettes!" Thank goodness I didn't have a magnifying-glass, or I would have been down on the carpet, observing the pile for footprints.

I felt proud and irritated in equal measure: proud that I can now (like Holmes himself) detect the tiniest variation in the depth of dust on a pile of *Radio Times*; irritated for obvious reasons (mainly to do with washing up). But there was something rather macabre about this Do Your Own Forensics activity, and eventually I stopped thinking about it. The idea of living alone is somehow quite closely associated with the idea of dying alone, too; and I didn't want to think about the giveaway clues packed into my own day-to-day life. "We found a half-eaten jar of pickled onions next to the bath. She had fed the cats but not washed the spoon. A little Post-It note was attached to

the bin, with the mysterious words "I suppose it's my turn again?" written on it in big wobbly capital letters, underlined."

If this sounds self-pitying and morbid, it is nevertheless something that single people very often joke about: the collective single mind contains a whole sub-section labelled: "What if I died?" "Thanks for the present," they say, "but what if I died, and somebody found the room stacked to shoulder height with 25 years' worth of *Pet Fish Monthly*?" I remember a woman once proudly describing to me how she had rescued herself from acute self-consciousness by assembling a library of pop psychology books, with titles such as *101 Ways Not To Care What Other People Think*, and *This Is Your Life (And Sod Them If They Can't Take a Joke)*. The effect of these books had been miraculous, she said; she had been transformed into someone who did not give a damn. I was impressed, and asked her to check the publishing details. "Oh, but I threw them all out, in the end," she said in a lowered voice. "I mean, what if I died and people came in and found a load of books with titles like those?"

**TOMORROW**  
Private Life: John Diamond

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THEATRE

# The crucial importers of being earnest

**T**he end of this year is supposed to bring us closer to a more culturally integrated Europe. We may not have felt the earth move yet, but in the theatre we are about to see a mini-invasion of foreign directors. Not just foreign companies visiting, but directors working here with British actors.

The question is, how much do we need them? Do they have a magic quality that British actors lack? Most leading actors who have been through the foreign experience are emphatic that they do. When Glenda Jackson played the autistic Spanish mother in Nuria Espert's *The House of Bernarda Alba*, she constantly had to tell herself: "They don't live in Surrey, they don't live in Surrey." Espert kept reminding her: "We are savages! We don't have your politeness." The result was a portrayal of explosive intensity that Glenda Jackson cherishes as one of her best.

A year ago the Georgian director Robert Sturua guided the Redgrave through an uncommonly passionate *Three Sisters*. "Physically and emotionally I would say it was about the toughest production any of us had done," recalls Lynn Redgrave. "We all agreed on that. It was very different but one had to abandon oneself to his way of doing things. That was very good for us all, I think, because of us having our own way for a long time."

More recently, Prunella Scales took part in a workshop at the National Theatre Studio run by the influential Russian director, Anatoli Vasiliev. She went along expecting "a tyrannical guru" but was surprised to find him courteous, patient and positive. "I don't know how much I can use, but it certainly shook me up as an actor in a very positive way," she says. "It's something to do with the energy he generates, but also the Russian way of working. He didn't lavish praise on anybody, but he was never destructive. We adored him."

Opportunities to accept the foreign challenge continue to flow in. The Brazilian director,

**Kenneth Rea looks at the energising influence of foreign directors on sound but sometimes sobersided British actors and actresses**

Augusto Boal, is at present running a series of workshops for London Bubble, while the Russian director Vasiliev is taking drama students of Guildhall School through *Don Quixote*. The *House of Bernarda Alba*, directed by the Maly Drama Theatre of St Petersburg (formerly the Maly Theatre of Leningrad), and 23 of his company begin working with British actors in Melrose, Scotland.

**D**odkin's visit rounds off a major season of workshops by directors from the former Soviet Union organised by the International Workshop Festival. The IWF, which previously introduced Jacques Lecoq, Carlo Boso and Philippe Gaulier to the British theatre profession, has a further line-up of international directors and teachers in the autumn.

This summer, Thelma Holt will mount a new Robert Sturua production with a British cast, Robert Lepage will unveil his version of *Midsummer Night's Dream* at the National Theatre and Philippe Gaulier will be touring his newly formed British company. Following them next spring, Yukio Ninagawa directs Alan Rickman in *Peer Gynt*, also produced by Thelma Holt.

It all sounds very interna-

tional, but how much difference is this going to make to British theatre? Thelma Holt, who has a long experience of working with foreign directors to work here, thinks the vital element is risk. "The thing about many foreign directors is that they do inspire in actors the willingness to stretch themselves just a little bit further than they sometimes do when they're with a director who speaks their own language," she says. "And the result is that you take risks. Foreign directors reserve the right to fail, which we tend not to do because of our economic situation."

Inevitably the stimulus of working with top foreign directors, who demand the time to go into minute detail on a scene, highlights the fact that so much British work could be better if it were not so compromised. As Prunella Scales points out: "What we have to do in England is instant acting and we're very good at it. But there's a world elsewhere that can show us different ways. British directors don't get the chance to work as they would like to, because there's never enough time."

Good foreign directors are admired for the visual boldness of their productions and the technical virtuosity of their actors, but when they work here, what most strikes audiences and critics is the emotional intensity they manage to extract from British actors. How do they do it? Suzanne Bertish, who starred with Alan Rickman in Ninagawa's production of *Tango at the End of Winter*, says: "I instinctively trusted Ninagawa. Yet I've never been given more responsibility by a director, ever in my life. What inspired me personally about him was his great director's humility. He wasn't talking from a puffed-up ego. He achieved in five weeks' rehearsal what is not often achieved after working a year in a company."

What most impressed Glenda Jackson about Nuria Espert was that she listened and offered suggestions rather than coming in with battle plans of how people moved and on what line. By contrast, Yuri Lyubimov did approach his restaging of *Hamlet* for Leicester Haymarket (which



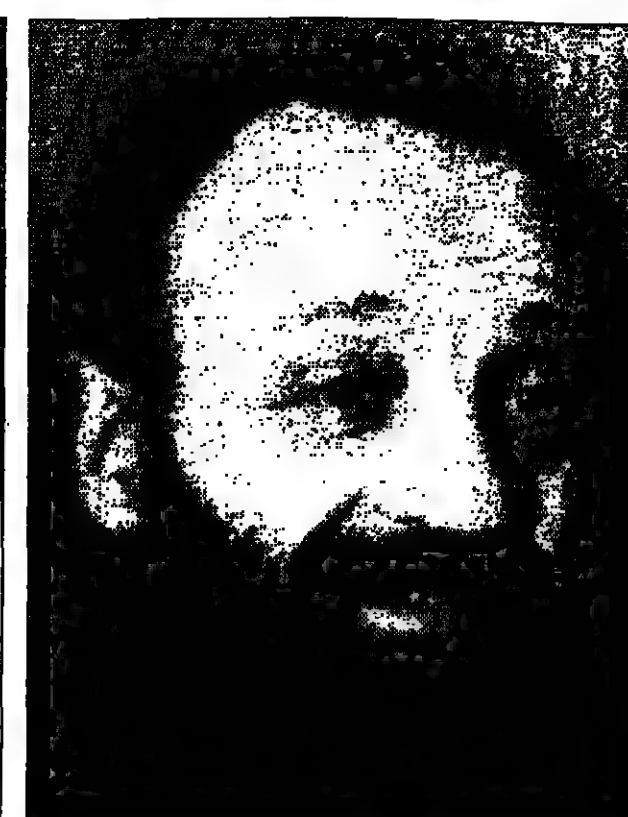
Actors and directors (clockwise from top left): Prunella Scales, who attended London sessions conducted by the Russian Anatoli Vasiliev; Nuria Espert, from Spain, who directed Glenda Jackson in *The House of Bernarda Alba*

he had directed in Russia more than a decade before) with a preordained plan and for many of his cast the rehearsal process was indeed a battle. As Daniel Webb, who played Hamlet, recalls: "He had a particular approach to acting where an action would lead to a thought which would lead to an emotion, rather than the other way round. I found it refreshing but half the time I found it extremely threatening. They couldn't bear him saying 'Move there, do that'."

What Lyubimov had in common with his foreign colleagues was an eagerness to dispense with the preliminary

intellectual discussions so beloved of many English directors. "The thing about foreign directors is that they force you to do things you're not used to doing," says Webb. "On the very first day it was straight in. He said, 'You've all read it? Okay, we don't need a read-through.' And he wanted 150 per cent from the very beginning. It made you dive off the top board. As an actor, I felt naked and scared. Lyubimov said to me, 'If you're feeling safe, then you're doing it wrong.' I thought that was quite a good note."

But for all his risks, Webb earned damning reviews because the verse-speaking



was so atrocious. In rehearsal, Lyubimov had given more time to the technical complexities of his set than the needs of the actors. A confrontation developed and members of the cast were left to speak the lines as best they could.

**O**f course, not every foreign director is a theatrical Messiah, but if we are open enough to take on new methods we have nothing to lose but our insularity. That is partly why the International Workshop Festival is increasingly targeting British directors. Ultimately it is they who will bring about change.

Meanwhile, polite actors must somehow find the courage to be passionate and savage. As Glenda Jackson says: "In this country a great many directors work with one eye on the critic. The British theatre is never going to improve until we get to a situation where people can begin to take risks again. If you are stuck in London, in a way that says the only definer of quality is the ability of a production to make a profit, there will be no life in the British theatre. Life is dependent on taking risks."

For details of places in the International Workshop Festival, telephone 071-253 3099.

ARTS BRIEF

## Dream in sight

ALBERTO GRIMALDI, the veteran film producer of *Last Tango in Paris* and Fellini's *Satyricon*, is inching nearer to his dream project. It is to make a film version of Dashiell Hammett's novel *Red Harvest*, a corpse-ridden tale of corruption and union-busting in Montana. Grimaldi bought the rights in 1972; Bernardo Bertolucci was once earmarked as the director, but fell out over interpretation (he is reported to have envisaged the film as "an American Marxist opera"). The more conservative Volker Schlöndorff has now been signed, and Harrison Ford is being sought to star as Hammett's nameless detective.

## Unto the breach

SIR William Walton would have been 90 this coming Sunday, and the London Symphony Orchestra is marking the date with a performance at the Barbican of Walton's score for the 1944 Olivier film of *Henry V*. On this occasion, Tom Conti will be crying God for Harry, England and St George. The Barbican Centre is also currently showing 30 photographs by Cecil Beaton of the young Walton and his circle of acquaintances. The exhibition is on until the end of next week.

## Peak time

IF THE quality of the jury is anything to go by, the world's newest arts awards — the "Montblanc de la Culture" — should make a splash. Dame Joan Sutherland, Catherine Deneuve, Isaac Stern, the dancer Karen Kain, the Louvre Pyramid architect I.M. Pei and the conductor Seiji Ozawa are among the judges for the awards, which are sponsored by a pen company. Each year four leading patrons of the arts will be selected; they will receive \$25,000 each to spend on the arts organisation of their choice. The awards are announced in New York next month.

## Last chance...

WET, WET, WET — the Glasgow rock band with the silly, silly name — have made strenuous efforts to shake off their "teen hero" image and reposition themselves in adult consciousness. But, thanks in large measure to the recent chart success of their romantic ballad "Goodnight Girl", it just won't work. Young girls insist on turning every venue at which they appear into a raucous cauldron of pubescent rapture. The final concert in their current tour is tonight at the NEC, Birmingham (021-780 4133).

GALLERIES: NAPLES

## Distinguished, gloomy gathering

**T**hese have been good years for lovers of Spanish art. A series of major shows devoted to individual masters have effectively covered most of the greatest: Velázquez, El Greco, Goya, Zurbarán, Murillo. (Unfortunately only the last of these, plus one of the smaller Goyas, ever came to Britain.) The one important gap is now filled: Ribera is the subject of a giant show in Naples now, and at the Prado in Madrid later in the year.

Why Naples, since he was a Spanish painter? Of course in his lifetime (1591-1652) Naples was Spanish, at least to the extent that the kings of Spain were also kings of Naples. Jusepe de Ribera was born in Jativa, Spain, and is first sighted professionally in Parma, where he was 20. Five years later he was in Naples; indeed, he was married there and settled there for the rest of his life.

All the same, he seems to have been regarded as a Spanish painter (he signed his works "Jusepe de Ribera Espanol"), and kept close connections with Spanish patrons, particularly in the 1630s and 1640s, when he executed major commissions for Spain, though probably without ever leaving Naples. In 1625 he was visited by a Spanish friend who asked why he lived and worked in Naples. He answered, with the perennial expatriate's lament: "I think Spain is a kindly mother to foreigners, but a very cruel stepmother to her own."

Where Ribera belonged did not seem to pose that much of a problem for contemporaries, but it looms larger with the modern passion for categorisation. Certainly he was admired and emulated in Spain; his work was influential, for example, on Velázquez, who was just eight years younger, though some of Ribera's later works, such as *The Cripple*

Ribera, a Spaniard who made his name in Italy, is the subject of an exhibition in his adopted home. John Russell Taylor reports



At least he spared viewers the flaying: *Apollo and Marysas* by Jusepe de Ribera

and the equestrian portrait of *Juan of Austria*, suggests that the influence may have been reciprocal.

And yet the proliferation of flayings and other nastinesses applied to the saints (the martyrdoms of St Bartholomew and St Sebastian were particular favourites) seem completely at home in Neapolitan art of the period, and the showing of Ribera in Naples has the extra advantage of being able to include two of his major commissions nearby,

the *Ceresa di San Martino*, on which he worked for many years, and the *Cappella del Tesoro di San Gennaro*. The Prado will be able to offer nothing comparable. Finally what matters, of course, is Ribera's quality as a painter. Here, it must be confessed, the show is not at once encouraging. Buried appropriately in the ice house depths of the Castel Sant'Elmo, it begins with so many very dark-toned pictures that one longs for a little light and

colour. Eventually they seep into his work, but only after traversing a seemingly endless series of half- and three-quarter length portraits with plain brown backgrounds, usually identified as this saint or that only by a significantly placed attribute. As Ribera progresses into the 17th century his compositions become more intricate and unruly, his colours lighter and brighter. But still his characteristic tone is grim: the only picture with charm in the

whole show is the *Boy With a Vase of Flowers*, from Oslo, which has been suggested as constituting some sort of series with *The Drinker* and *Girl with a Tambourine*, though seeing them together here makes that seem unlikely.

Sometimes a vivid or imaginative detail emerges from the prevailing gloom. There can be few Old Master versions of *Jacob's Dream*, for instance, that render the contents of the dream with such Impressionist vagueness as Ribera's.

**P**erhaps it is cheering as well as unexpected that just once, when dealing with the *Penitent Magdalen*, he has opted for the precise moment when the scales drop from her eyes before she has had time to change from glaucous to rage and that when dealing with the story of Marysae, he has not gone into detail about the flaying. On the other hand, the *Venus in his Venus and Adonis* looks more vengeful than loving, and who else would have painted the bearded lady Maddalena Ventura suckling her child?

This climate of violence and gloom is arguably common to Neapolitan and Spanish painting at this period, but Ribera's brand fits in with Naples and seems slightly off-centre in Spain. The most one can say is that some of his richest later works, like the *Metropolitan's Mystical Marriage of St Catherine* (1648) or the *Santa Maria Egiziaca* in Naples (pensive rather than heftily aerobic) are poised between the two schools: What would have happened if he had returned to Spain? In Naples that remains a puzzle. Maybe the Madrid version of the show will suggest some unsuspected answers.

• Jusepe de Ribera is showing in Naples at the Castel Sant'Elmo, the *Ceresa di San Martino* and the *Cappella del Tesoro di San Gennaro*, until May 17.

TELEVISION

## Tracks of the master

exposed and probed by the surgeon's knife. Talking about the importance attached to human hands in 17th-century Holland, Schama's own hands became even more frantically flamboyant.

**S**chama's ability to dive into a painting, and resurface with an observation about the fur standing up in terror on Belshazzar's cloak, made me look forward to his second programme (on BBC 2 next Sunday) about the later, private Rembrandt. But at one point, the camera alighted on a portrait of Jan Pellicorne without any acknowledgement of the painting's uncertain status. For this is one of the 11 demoted Rembrandts in the Wallace Collection, where only one of his pictures is now regarded as authentic. The rest have been rejected by the Rembrandt Research Project, a formidable

team of Dutch scholars whose deliberations lie at the centre of *The Vanishing Rembrandts* (tonight, BBC 2).

Geoff Dunlop's measured film begins in an ominous mood, stressing the fear generated by the Project as it strips Rembrandt's oeuvre of its dubious images. Some of his most celebrated and expensive paintings have been attributed to pupils such as Flinck, Bol and the elusive Drost, who is even supposed to have painted the seductive *Polish Rider* in the Frick collection. The director of the Frick fails to defend his painting, but other owners rally round their pictures with conviction.

The undismayed Duke of Westminster, four of whose Rembrandts have been ousted from the canon, coolly insists that "It's not something which concerns me hugely — the quality of the work hasn't changed." But our attitude to the disputed pictures is bound to alter. Unlike Christopher Brown of the National Gallery, who likes one Westminster portrait to the infinitely superior *Agatha Bas*, I find myself sharing the Project's doubts.

RICHARD CORK

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# Taking heat from the gasmen

**Heather Kirby  
tells how Hilary  
Williams fought  
against dismissal  
and won a case to  
get back her job as  
a senior executive**

**H**ilary Williams embodies what the modern female high-flyer is all about, which may explain why British Gasman is so humiliated by her. Single, 48, and committed to her career, Ms Williams is too independent and intelligent to be pushed around, but she is also sensitive and can be seriously wounded by unfair treatment.

This combination seems to present supposedly modern organisations, with stone-age mentality managers lurking in their corridors of power, with a dilemma. How does corporate caveman cope with an attractive senior executive, tipped to become the company's first female director, someone who can neither be patronised as one of the boys nor seduced with a sharp tap on the head with a club?

There are other ways, as Ms Williams discovered when she was summarily sacked from her £45,000-a-year job as southwest regional marketing manager for British Gas. When it happened, Tony Roddis, her boss, said: "Thank God you have taken it like a man, even though you are the wrong shape." His remark will be treasured in the annals of equal opportunities lore. But instead of putting up with her demotion as, apparently, she was expected to do, Ms Williams fought back.

"It was a matter of personal pride," she says. "I felt destroyed. Having concentrated exclusively on a career for 25 years, I had put all my eggs in one basket and there went the basket, crashing down. Individuals and organisations should behave in a moral way and the treatment I received no way fell into that category."

"It was grossly unfair, and an unwarranted slur was being cast on my career. It was fed back to me that 'she must have blotted her copybook' but there was no skeleton in the cupboard which should make me feel inadequate in any way."

After a five-day hearing an industrial tribunal delivered its verdict in her favour last week. British Gas was found guilty of "institutionalised discrimination" and the tribunal's chairman, Stella Hollis, added: "The tribunal are satisfied that the men were treated more favourably." They awarded Ms Williams £8,000 damages and ordered British Gas to reinstate her in her old job and pay her costs. The tribunal also recommended that a letter, written by the domestic marketing director, Barry Adams, after grievance procedures began, should be destroyed. "It appeared to the tribunal to be a very unkind and generalised attack on a person who has been a colleague and a friend in order to preserve other colleagues," the ruling said.

The humiliation of being demoted to a job Ms Williams had been doing eight years ago, "which is very much smaller than I am" was particularly demoralising for a woman who had previously been hailed by the company, which employs more than 70,000, as one



Vindicated: an industrial tribunal found British Gas guilty of "institutionalised discrimination" against Hilary Williams. She was awarded £8,000 damages

**When she was sacked from a £45,000-a-year job with British Gas, her boss said: "Thank God you are taking it like a man, even though you are the wrong shape."**

of its "top 700". (Five per cent of senior staff are women.) The final twist of the knife came, with near timing, on her birthday (she assumed until she opened the letter that it would be a message of congratulations) and only two days after she took delivery of a new £20,000 company car.

Nothing about the way Ms Williams has been treated makes much sense. She was head-hunted by British Gas nine years ago, marked as a high-flyer, and sent on secondments as part of the company's career development plan. She was told after one appointment that she was "as good as any man".

The blow, therefore, was all the more stunning because it was so unexpected. "After privatisation British Gas did a restructuring exercise and I checked my new job description and decided there was no substantial change so, in line with the criteria laid down by the company I decided I was safe and need not apply for another job with the company. When I was told my job was going to be advertised I knew I was going to be got rid of."

Her three colleagues, all male, retained their positions. "I had to go through the process of being interviewed for my own job, and be turned down. It was the ultimate humiliation. I hated the interview, it was a complete charade. But I

had to do it otherwise I would not have had any proof. They could have said I didn't bother to apply."

"I felt the reason I was being chucked out was my boss was not able to cope with a strong, decisive, achieving woman. To him I was a totally alien thing. He is typical of his background and upbringing and I used to tease him that he was a northern male chauvinist. He is only nine days older than I am but he wasn't comfortable about working with a woman at this level. The other three managers reporting to him were men and I felt a little bit on the outside. Their families socialised together after work, I didn't get invited."

"When he suggested I go for a district general manager's job in Bath I told him there would be no point because the operations director in charge of Somerset doesn't like women. His response was, 'he's only frightened of you like I am'."

A remark such as that may not be unusual in a company where an interview panel can, according to

Ms Williams, come up with questions such as, "An attractive woman like you, won't you be getting married soon?" or, "Will you be able to handle this position, it involves accounts and women aren't good at numbers, are they?" As it happens Ms Williams took A-levels in pure and applied maths and physics at Bath High School, and originally read maths at university but graduated with a psychology degree. She is also a Master of Business Administration: was the first female assistant prison governor in the country, worked for Wiltshire's social services department and is a non-executive director of an NHS trust hospital.

**S**itting in her mews house on the outskirts of Bath, Ms Williams is surrounded by good luck cards and is ministering to a fluffy white stray cat with battle-scarred ears that has adopted her. British Gas has, she says, made a "flurry of senior female appointments within the

last few weeks and I am absolutely delighted for the women concerned. Nonetheless, it does look a little bit like a knee-jerk reaction." One of the appointments is Julie Mellor to the newly created position of equal opportunities director, a job which, despite the impending hearing, Ms Williams had also applied for. "I made it quite clear it was a considered and serious application because it was not beyond the bounds of possibility it might be interpreted as frivolous, since I was taking the company to law on the sex discrimination act. I also made it quite clear British Gas could not bribe me by offering me the job in return for dropping the case and I was not offering to drop the case in return for the job. That made it clean and decent and honest. We would have had to resolve our dispute outside the legal process."

In the event, although she was shortlisted, she did not succeed, and not, she feels, for any other reason than she failed to expend on

what her duties would involve. "I believe there is a great deal of concern within the company which I think they need to explore. Women, particularly at junior level, feel it is a difficult organisation to succeed in but I don't think I managed to get across how I would tackle it."

As far as she is concerned, there are no hard feelings. How British Gas feels about her she has no idea, because the only communication from the company hierarchy since the tribunal's decision has been a phone call from the regional chairman to ask her to meet him next week. Ms Williams is not due back at her desk until after Easter, and exactly which job she will return to is still not clear. She was aware that the act of taking a high-profile employer to court could make her a marked woman but that did not deter her. "I don't know if British Gas will freeze me out or if other potential employers might blacklist me but then I wouldn't want to work for those kind of people anyway. It is also possible my reputation will be enhanced by the moral stand I have taken."

Ms Williams describes her victory as a landmark for career women. British Gas is one of the leading supporters of Opportunity 2000, but has anyone told them the goal is AD not BCT?

## AND BRIEFLY

### For lusty offspring

"THE imagination of the mother operates most forcibly in the conception of the child. How much better, then, were it for women to lead contented lives, that so their imaginations may be pure and clear, that so that their conception may be well formed." A mother "ought to avoid all salt meats, garlick, leeks, onions and mustard. Excessive drinking of wine, strong beer or ale; for they trouble the child's body with choler. Cheese, both old and new, with melancholy; and all fish with flegm." And those who wish to become mothers should "Use not the act of copulation too often... Satiety gluts the womb, and makes it unfit to do its offices..." This and other occasionally pertinent advice for mothers-to-be is proffered in *Culpeper's Book of Birth: a Seventeenth Century Guide to Having Lusty Children* (Webb & Bower, £9.95), which is available from Culpeper shops around the country. It is edited by Ian Mitchell Thomas and all royalties go to Birthright.

### Cellar selloff

TOMORROW the fine wines and champagnes from the private cellars of Robert Maxwell will be auctioned at Christie's. The bottles — more than 3,000 — are expected to realise between £60,000 and £80,000 for Headington Holdings Ltd, with a dozen Château La Mission-Haut-Brion 1961 alone expected to bring in up to £3,000. A selection of the wines will be available for tasting on the day. Further details from Christie's, 8 King Street, London SW1Y 6QT (071-839 9060).

### Roll up...

IF YOU can't be bothered to completely re-decorate a child's room, you can give it a new look with the new Funtime borders from Fablon. From £3.99 a roll (depending on length and width) they feature animals and cartoon characters, and a wipe-clean finish.

### Singing detector

"INTELLIGENT" packaging — that can speak, sing or otherwise communicate its product's authenticity — would be welcomed by toy manufacturers concerned by counterfeits, according to the British Toy & Hobby Briefing. A recent report by the trade and industry department and the Centre for Exploitation of Science and Technology found that the use of low-cost sensors in packaging could save the beleaguered industry up to £60 billion over the next ten years. Consumers would undoubtedly pay more but would gain in the long run from knowing they were buying the real thing. Then there is the danger that the packaging would become a greater collector's item than the product.

### Horse sense

FIRST-TIME buyers may find that choosing a horse is as difficult as choosing a house. So Pet Plan, the pet and equestrian insurers, have set up an advice line (Freephone 0800 212 248) offering guidance on costs (of buying and keeping), stabling and how to avoid being saddled with a "lem-on". (Buy from someone in your area, or who is well-known, and see the horse ridden by his present owner before trying him out yourself. And always have an expert on hand for advice, such as your local equine veterinary surgeon.) Even if you don't buy a horse — or insure it with Pet Plan — the advice is free.

V.MCK.

## Bitter feelings can lie beneath the sugary surface of mother-daughter relationships

**M**other's day may be a time for flowers and flattery, but for the rest of the year relationships between women and their mothers can be fraught with terribly unflattering feelings.

Some women, among them quite a few high achievers, go so far as to deny their mothers and identify with their fathers. The starting point for Leo Abse's controversial "psycho-biography" of Mrs Thatcher was her enmity in *Who's Who*, proclaiming that she was "born 13 October 1925, daughter of the late Alfred Roberts" — without any mention of her mother Beatrice, to whom the former prime minister is alleged to have commented she had nothing more to say after the age of 15.

Other women who achieved success in traditionally male fields — from Queen Elizabeth I to the scientist Dr Mary Archer, the philosopher Lady Warnock and the mathematical prodigy Ruth Lawrence — all did so by identifying more strongly with a male parent. As Dr Archer put it, "I think rejection is too strong a word. But like many women who've been fortunate I have had a very supportive father."

Psychiatrists' couches are filled with women who believe their mothers to be at the root of all their evils. Maye Taylor, an analytical psychotherapist who works almost exclusively with women in Manchester and Birmingham, says: "The mother-daughter relationship is the central one in women's lives and underlies the majority of other relationships. Often you see a deep-seated rivalry which is tragic. Many women who are mothers of teenage girls today seem to envy their freedom — and the relationship the girl has got

## When mother's had her day

with her father — and there is quite a lot of envy."

Some degree of disagreement with her mother is essential for a woman's independent development, Ms Taylor says. "In order to separate from the mother she needs a point where she's not getting on because she's going to have to reject some of her mother's values in order to get on with her own. It's a natural stage although it feels horrible and both mother and daughter hate it. But unless there is that separation you're going to get an unhealthy fusion. I've given my own daughter permission to shoot me if I exhibit certain characteristics of my own mother!"

The period of separation usually comes at the daughter's puberty. "If the mother handles it well the tensions should start easing by the time the daughter is about 16," Ms Taylor says. Handling it well means not laying down too many rules and instructions about things that do not matter (such as clothes) but laying down rules where they are important.

Dr Nini Herman, a psychotherapist and the author of *Too Long a Child: The Mother/Daughter Dyad*, is less certain than Ms Taylor that a period of conflict is necessary between a daughter and her mother. "Where from the very beginning a mother takes it as a matter of course that a daughter can make her own choices there's no great need for fighting," she says. "There is no need to reject

your mother to become yourself, and as things move on and it is taken for granted that mothers and daughters must both find their own fulfilment it should become increasingly easier — with less guilt on the part of the daughter and less rage on the part of the mother."

Dysfunctional mother/daughter relationships begin, Dr Herman is convinced, at birth. Child therapists at the Tavistock Clinic in London, a leading family therapy centre, now do "baby observation" as part of their training — visiting a mother and baby weekly for two years, she says. "It is wonderful to watch a relationship laying down its seed bed."

But instant bonding with a female baby is not essential. "If things don't go horribly wrong you can make it up later — and some mothers may only begin to get interested in a child when it is older," Dr Herman says.

Professor Valerie Walkerdine, a professor of psychology at Goldsmith's College, University of London, did a long-term study observing the relationships of mothers and their four-year-old daughters — following them up again when the children were aged 10. "We disproved feminist accounts of the mother/daughter relationships which talk, in some instances, as if they were a little Garden of Eden where violence and violent feelings only come in when the father enters," she says. "We were trying to point out that

there were power differences between girls and their mothers and that the relationships are often difficult, and we felt that it was important for women to understand and recognise their own violent and angry feelings."

Surprisingly, Professor Walkerdine discovered that some of the girls who had very good relationships with their mothers did quite poorly at school and a lot who had bad relationships did well. "One girl particularly had a really close and playful relationship with her mother but displayed inamiable behaviour at school," she says. "My hunch was that her relationship with her mother was so close that she found it hard to go into a classroom where she wasn't her mother's clever girl. And in other work I've done I've found that the girls who really do well are those who can be quite bōtzy with their mums — and their mums with them."

**T**he psychiatrist Dr Robin Skytner is hesitant about apportioning blame on either side for mother/daughter difficulties. "It's more that if a mother has grown up with good mothering herself and has grown up to feel good about herself then things are more likely to go well with her daughter," he says. "We often perpetuate the cycle by trying too hard not to perpetuate it: you have a mother who is too intensely invested in the child so the child feels smothered, and when she grows up she may repeat that pattern or react the other way — pushing her daughter away, almost. That daughter grows up feeling deprived, and when she has a child she may zoom in and feel she's going to give it what she lacks and the process starts over again."



Relatively valued: Meryl Streep and screen mother Shirley MacLaine in *Postcards from the Edge*

Victoria Secunda, the American author of *When You and Your Mother Can't be Friends* believes that no two generations in history have had less in common than the current one of women and their mothers of 50-plus. "The mothers were raised to define themselves in terms of their maternal priorities

while their daughters were raised on sex and drugs and rock and roll," Ms Secunda says. "So the mother either denigrates the daughter or is dominated by her." Ms Secunda, at 52, has not yet resolved her relationship with her own mother. "My mother and I had a very problematic relation-

ship," she says. Her own daughter, now 24, became anorexic in her teens as a result, Ms Secunda feels, of not being able to establish her own identity. "Now," Ms Secunda says, "my goal as her mother is to enable her to live without me."

VICTORIA MCKEE

Any  
as i

Blame it  
in biology



# Any sex so long as it's female

In Maidstone all four main parliamentary candidates are women: does sex make a difference? Alice Thomson reports on the flavour of an all-female campaign



Female rivals: Anne Logan (Labour), Paula Yates (Lib Dem) and Ann Widdecombe (Conservative)

While women elsewhere in Britain are still struggling to clamber to the top of the career pyramid, in Maidstone they are already nearing the summit. Women, it seems, are a highly-valued commodity in this Kentish heartland. The mayor is a woman, the deputy mayor is a woman, most of the senior borough councillors are women and now, in a parliamentary first, all three main parties as well as the Greens have women candidates.

The seat has been held by the formidable Ann Widdecombe, under-secretary of state at the social security department, who has developed a reputation as a doughty fighter during her four years at Westminster. Miss Widdecombe, one of the first women to be promoted by John Major, had a healthy majority of 10,000 at the last election. Her rivals are no less daunting: Liberal Democrat Paula Yates, a former leader of Maidstone borough council; Labour's Anne Logan, a senior history lecturer at mid-Kent college; and the Greens' Penny Kemp, a former co-chair of the party.

Over the next two weeks a record number of women (335 of the 1,950 candidates fielded by the three main parties) will vie for seats at Westminster. Raising the profile of women has become an issue for all the main parties, stung by increasing criticism of male domination in British politics. In 1979 there were just 19 female MPs: since then this has increased to the recent high of 44 (just under 7 per cent of the total). This election could produce another 20.

With so few women in politics it seems a pity that they are fighting each other rather than standing in different constituencies, but Evelyn Knowles, chair of the all-party 300 Group, whose aim is to see 300 women at Westminster, is delighted by the prospect. "I think it is very encouraging that they have all been selected," she says. "It will be interesting to see how different the campaign is from an all-male contest. It is quite possible that the women will be just as nasty as the men."

On the first day of the campaign Mrs Yates was handing out Liberal Democrat leaflets in a

canary yellow, sweatshirt and squeaky new trainers at a local shopping precinct. A mother of four and already a grandmother at 43, she feels quite at home wielding a shopping trolley, discussing inflation in terms of baked beans and kissing babies who gurgle happily back at her.

"I am a housewife. I have never been gainfully employed and I feel that is a great advantage," she says. "I have time to notice how normal people have been affected by mortgages, food, prices and health care."

Mrs Yates's political shopping list includes state-funded nurseries for three-year-olds, subsidised childcare, better education and training and better housing facilities for the young.

She puts the blame on Margaret Thatcher for the dearth of women in Parliament. "She showed women they could succeed but only if they beat the men at their own game. Many women have low self-esteem and she made them feel that if they were not as ruthless as her, they would never succeed."

"The result is that many talented and able women avoid politics and that is a shame because they could do a lot to help other women."

She stops to talk to Alan Watson, a garage owner, his wife and their baby. Mr Watson thinks it's a bit of a laugh having only women. "As long as they don't start telling us what to do with our football team, I'm all for a bit of feminine charm. Of course we like women down here. Don't know what their husbands will say though. I always used to feel a bit sorry for Denis," he says.

Mrs Yates's husband is notably absent on the campaign trail. As a senior local-government official he is prohibited from canvassing but has taken over the housework at home. "We haven't discussed what we will do if I become an MP. The hours are terribly long and inconvenient. My husband would probably have to work half-time;

but he'd love being a kept man." Further down the street, Ms Kemp is sitting in the beer garden of the Druids Arms holding a conference with her Green party supporters. Draped in layers of green and brown cardigans and with brightly-benned hair, Ms Kemp looks appropriately tree-like. Ms Kemp is a writer (*Europe's Green Alternative*) with two grown-up children. She is a widow, aged 42, and says there is no time for any men in her life while the planet is going down the drain. She practises what she preaches, being an avid vegetarian, recycling all her waste and growing organic vegetables.

Ms Kemp used to be a driving instructor and still owns a car, but nevertheless believes that the future lies with public transport. "I want to get the message across that global warming is a reality. Take Maidstone, it has the third worst air pollution in the country and it is being sited by the ring road that runs around it. We need to get people out of their cars and into cheap and effective public transport."

Ms Kemp wants a different way of measuring the quality of life and thinks that many women will support her. "Men think in terms of booms and recessions, and melodramatic changes. Women just want stability," she says.

"I would like to introduce a basic income scheme for everyone. That will give the unemployed, single mothers, housewives and the homeless a basic income. We have budgeted it and it could work."

A researcher at the House of Commons, for Dafydd Elis Thomas, a Plaid Cymru MP, Ms Kemp believes that Westminster is still a bastion of male chauvinism. "The whole system is geared to competition and aggression. Sexual harassment and bullying run rampant. Men that want to show the gentle side of their nature feel inhibited," she says.

The candidates agreed to be photographed together after in-

tense pressure and charm from the photographer. This was their first encounter and they would not have to meet again until the week of the election. Ms Kemp offered to blow up Miss Widdecombe's campaign balloon and Mrs Yates helped Mrs Logan pin on her rosette. Miss Widdecombe was a bit baffled by this sisterhood and kept her distance but even she was smiling. The others did the can-can. Privately they all expressed reservations about each other, publicly they acted like bosom friends.

Miss Widdecombe left to press on with her campaigning, and chose a cul-de-sac containing a large proportion of fence dogs and Labour supporters. Miss Widdecombe was unruffled, even when she had a door slammed in her face.

The other candidates had told me that she was "worse than Margaret Thatcher" — a man in women's tweeds — but she seemed to have plenty of feminine charm. She handed balloons to Labour supporters' children, was bullish on Conservative proposals for the NHS and seemed genuinely concerned about a constituent's ailing cat.

The daughter of a former director general at the defence ministry, she is a no-nonsense and straightforward person, steering a straight course and sidling doggedly to her doctrines. She is 44 and has never married and she doesn't think that mothers make good MPs. "There is a conflict between family and Parliament. MPs are better suited to celibacy," she says, laughing.

But she doesn't want the hours changed. "I am in London all week and in the constituency at weekends. I used to have a life but I have given up all my hobbies. This is a full-time job and so it should be."

Feminists' hackles may rise at Miss Widdecombe's stance, while she in turn shudders at the word feminism. She is keenly "pro-life" and is a leading campaigner on abortion issues. She also believes that mothers should stay at home when their children are young.

"I don't regard myself as a woman MP in the same way that I don't regard myself as a short and



Penny Kemp, Green candidate: 'The whole system is geared to competition and aggression'

fat MP. I am elected for the people, not women," she says.

She does feel that women have a tough time in politics. "Being female is a hindrance to getting elected. Women, particularly older ones, just won't vote for other women as their candidates. They want a nice, eligible bachelor, that's the trouble. Once you become an MP you are more likely to be noticed as a woman so it becomes beneficial," she says, but adds that she disapproves of positive discrimination. "I would hate to think I was only going to get into the cabinet because I was a woman."

The canvassing ended with a Tory tea, attended by 30 women and one man, Robert Hooker, a

computer salesman. "All the women seem to care just as much as men about the economy, unemployment and the health service and they really know their facts. But they also care about the environment, the elderly and local issues," he says. "The only disadvantage I can see is that they can't always hold their own against men in debates."

Mrs Logan, the youngest candidate at 34, is precisely the sort of woman that Miss Widdecombe does not approve of: a working mother with a toddler. While we go out canvassing in the evening, her husband is left looking after their daughter.

"I will be a parliamentary widow," Mr Logan says. "I don't

mind, I am proud of her and I hope my daughter will be too."

Mrs Logan wants more children and if elected will fight for better parental leave and childcare support. "Fair pay and flexible working hours are all essential to help women and men combine caring for a family with earning a living," she says.

"I enjoy the political world. I have no trouble in matching the men and making speeches. I beat three men to get the nomination."

In the uncertain world of election forecasting Maidstone is one place where one accusation cannot be made: after April 9, the constituency's MP will be a woman and nobody will be able to say she got in on the woman's vote.

## Blame it on biology

Women behaving badly may be suffering PMT or may simply be angry: who can tell the difference?

Executives at the electronics giant Fujitsu are unlikely to be splitting their sides at a recent joke about premenstrual tension (PMT): Why does it take two women with PMT to change a light bulb? BECAUSE IT JUST DOES, ALL RIGHT!

Last week the company had to pay out nearly £1,000 after an industrial tribunal found that a woman employee who had been sacked for hitting her boss during a bout of PMT had been unfairly dismissed.

In offices elsewhere reactions to the gag may reflect both a mixture of relief that a once taboo subject can be laughed about and a fear that we are in danger of going OTT about PMT, using it as a scatter gun excuse for every shortcoming or upset in working life.

Dr Katharina Dalton, the gynaecologist and endocrinologist whose pioneering work on the syndrome has made medical and legal history, turns down at least as many cases to plead in mitigation as she accepts. "I get angered by bandwagon jumpers. It is a great shame because the genuine cases deserve every consideration and thoroughness. They can be heartbreaking."

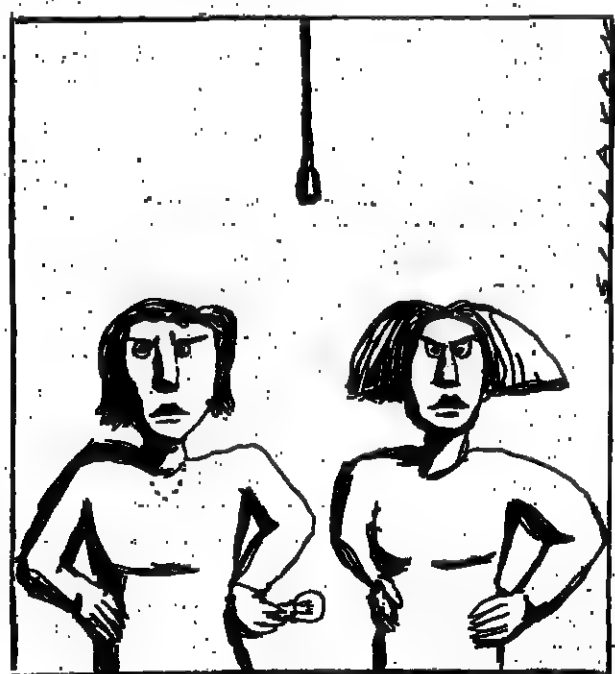
Extreme near-psychotic manifestations of the phenomenon such as those suffered by Anna Reynolds who

battered her mother to death or Nicola Owen, an arsonist who had made more than 40 suicide attempts by the age of 17, are fortunately rare. Less serious symptoms however, such as ill-temper, mood swings or depression are common: Dr Dalton estimates that nearly a third of all women will suffer effects severe enough to merit time off work or consultation with a doctor.

Part of the difficulty in establishing the syndrome's bona fides is that as with back ache or fatigue it is almost impossible to measure physiologically. There is one test which measures the level of a substance called sex hormone binding globulin in the blood (a low level is an indicator) but since this cannot be done if there has been any medication, even a vitamin tablet, in the previous week or if the patient is obese, unduly hairy or affected by thyroid or liver problems, its use is limited.

There are however, Dr Dalton says, "diagnostic pointers". The syndrome must be once a month for at least three months and there must be witnesses to its effects. The other thing is that the woman must be absolutely normal for the rest of the month.

"The incident or crime has to be committed alone. So it won't wash for there to be three male bank robbers and one female, though I have had that tried on me. By and large there should be no



motive. When such women shoplift, for example, they might steal infant-ski clothes though they are neither skiers nor mothers."

Even where the authenticity of menstrual problems is not in doubt, the victim must still address the practical dilemma of how public she wants them made: privacy and special consideration are mutually exclusive.

Moreover, the debate raises the question of whether the workplace should accommodate itself to the special needs of women or whether women should accommodate themselves to the demands of the workplace. A generation of women who have sobbed in the loo in order to maintain a stiff upper lip outside can feel embarrassed, even betrayed, by others who demand "give me a break. I'm getting my period".

Pat Dixon, a psychologist at John Nicholson Associates,

a human resources consultancy, who is writing a book on working relationships between men and women says: "About half the women I have spoken to believe the menstrual cycle should not have any effect. They believe that if you are well enough to go to work, you are well enough to ignore any physical or psychological consequences. Other women say it is a secret they would share with female colleagues but not with men."

Men are in a curious position nowadays. Many are more mindful of menstrual difficulties — even the landlord of the Rovers Return in *Coronation Street* was recently heard to tell his barmaid he was "not unaware of women's problems" — but they might also be more reluctant to mention them. "In the old days women in the workplace could be treated like wives and a boss might even mark his calendar with his secretary's 'time of the month'," Ms Dixon says.

"The problem now for men is whether they should even acknowledge it because it marks one sex out from the other. Then there are men who want to treat women according to their needs, but are not sure if that is what women want. They feel it is all rather dangerous ground."

Similarly women who do not suffer PMT find it galling for every outburst or bad mood to be attributed, even if only by a knowing looking, to the syndrome: blaming it on biology robs them of the freedom to be angry or annoyed for good reason.

Inevitably every mention of PMT will provide men with ammunition about female instability and unreliability. To this Dr Dalton retorts that far more alcoholics and criminals are men than are women. "If you want a decent, sober, hard-working employee you should pick a woman every time. PMT should not be used against women but perhaps it should help us be more flexible both at work and at home. Men and children can suffer from a woman's moods sometimes as much as she does."

Dr Dalton's latest work suggests that symptoms are closely linked to an intermittent lack of starch: foods which in turn affects blood sugar levels and that the most effective treatment may simply involve eating properly.

David Holton who with his wife Wendy helps run the advice and information service PMS Help thinks women should take responsibility for getting help. "If it is treated it should not disqualify anyone from any sort of work, but if it is left untreated then frankly I think it is a disqualification from anything which would be adversely affected by violent fluctuations in mood or sudden flare ups, most higher jobs in fact."

LIZ GILL

## Some mothers are having their daughters shrunk

### Cut down in size

How tall is too tall for a woman? Anything over five foot eleven — at least if you're Norwegian.

For there, in the land of tall people, mothers who fear their daughters will attain that towering height are taking them to special clinics for height reduction therapy.

According to a report in *The Lancet*, more than 500 Norwegian pre-pubertal girls have successfully been treated for height reduction. After gauging eventual height by radiography, treatment consists of the administration of oestrogen for about three years, and if successful, results in a height reduction of two or three inches.

But in the days when tall women such as Jerry Hall and Janet Street-Porter, both nudging six foot, can become so famous and successful, and when you almost can't be too tall to be a top model, why do women continue to be self-conscious about their height? After all, several studies have shown that tall women, like tall men, are perceived to be more intelligent, capable and authoritative than short ones.

Tam Fry, the founder and chairman of the Child Growth Foundation, believes the impetus comes mainly from the mothers, rather than the children. "Unless there is great height abnormality, we find that usually children don't mind being tall," he says. "Often, the mothers are taller than average, and remember how they felt when they seemed to be giants in their school."

Six months ago, Philip Heinrich, himself six foot eight, started the Tall Persons' Club in Britain. He now



Model height: Jerry Hall

has more than 1,000 members, many of them women of six foot or more.

"It's still the case that a short man with a tall wife is perceived as being hen-

pecked. But apart from that, very tall people get tired of everybody they meet commenting on their height. Over the years, we've heard them all ad nauseam."

The idea that tall women are automatically very self-confident is a myth, he says. "Some very tall women such as Janet Street-Porter and Germaine Greer are exceptional intelligent people who are not afraid to open their mouths. But if you're just an ordinary girl trying to make a living as a secretary in the suburbs and you're six foot two, then life can be very difficult indeed."

Hormone treatment to reduce height was first introduced in 1946 at the Massachusetts General Hospital, and has been controversial ever since.

Michael Preece, a professor of child health and growth at the Institute of Child Health says: "The Norwegians have always sworn by oestrogen treatment, but in our experience it's very unsatisfactory and doesn't even guarantee results. Treatment for tall boys is even less satisfactory."

A treatment to treat tall stature using the anti-growth hormone somatostatin is being trialed at several hospitals in the UK. It works by suppressing the body's secretion of growth hormone and is given by injection. Like the hormone therapy, it has to be given before puberty.

LIZ HODGKINSON

Tall Persons Club, 29 Stanhope Street, Harford, HR4 0HA (0432 271818). Please include large size. The Child Growth Foundation is at 2 Mayfield Avenue, Chiswick, London, W4 (081-995 0257).

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## Election in search of news

The manipulation of the medium, not the message, could leave voters up in the air

On March 29 last year the French philosopher Jean Baudrillard wrote an essay entitled *The Gulf War Has Not Taken Place*. So much for French philosophers, you might say. Well yes, but this is not so stupid an idea as it might seem. Baudrillard's argument, broadly, was that faced with such a babble of media-generated information it was impossible to truly "know" if a war had taken place, or whether a simulation, on the television screens and newspaper pages of the world, had been played out.

Fanciful? Yes, but the ideas underlying this theory have value at this election, the first truly post-modern one where as much interest — if not more — is gleaned from the medium and how it is used as the message and what it means. Everybody is monitoring this election, but what is it?

We have been bombarded with an election babble unlike any before: the media has created 38 per cent of all election stories, according to a Loughborough University analysis in *The Guardian*. This navel-gazing does not solely happen on TV. Newspapers monitor each other, and overly politicised ones are praised for the ingenuity of their interpretations of facts, and, in one case, for delaying the scoop of the year for a day in order to hammer the Labour budget. The myriad polls reflect no consensus.

John Major summed it up nicely on Saturday when asked by the BBC to respond to two polls that would appear in the Sunday press. "There aren't,"

there are five," he said, hence he felt no need to respond, as he was, he later told Brian Walden, "all over the place".

In an era when the media has wised-up to photo opportunities and the electorate can spot a sound bite blindfold at 1,000 yards: where politicians are so well-trained in the guerrilla art of the "studio debate" that anything other than a goalless draw is almost impossible to achieve, there are precious few opportunities for voters to grasp at the truth.

Only in the single, head to head interview can the politicians be got at, revealed unencumbered by packaging. 20-second philosophies and cheering supporters.

In his book, *Our Masters' Voices*, Max Atkinson lists three main rhetorical strategies which elicit applause for politicians. These are: a "trick, device or language designed to catch applause", Oxford English Dictionary; the three-point list, "they have an air of unity or completeness about them", Atkinson says; and, finally, the "contrastive pairs" or antitheses, with their

considerable advantages both for projecting a completion point and delivering a punchline.

In three recent examples: Sir Robin Day's interview with Paddy Ashdown, Brian Walden's encounter with the prime minister and Jonathan Dimbleby's with John Smith, these tricks of rhetoric were apparent.

Sir Robin showed that he, too, is infected with election babble. He began by asking Mr Ashdown if the Liberal Democrats could win, and followed by saying: "Nobody thinks you'll be able to do it." He wasted the first five minutes of a 25-minute interview on media-driven speculation. "I hear... an informal understanding exists with the Labour party," he said. But Mr Ashdown had learnt his claspnet, too: "You hear wrong," he said after a long pause. Mr Ashdown emerged, rhetorically at least, a winner.

Mr Walden's approach is the closest to classic forms of debate. As with his famous post-Lawson resignation interview with Mrs Thatcher, he started the long questions early with Mr Major this Sunday. A question including a thesis took one minute, 18 seconds to deliver. In a culture used to the quick fire knockabout of *Newsnight* or *Channel 4 News*, it was almost boring.

But Mr Walden's long, finely attuned questions with verrier interruptions. When Mr Major tells him he is "too black and white", he asks for the "grey" answers. But Mr Major does not bite. Even when Mr Walden patronises: "I will briefly restate the question," Mr Major keeps calm. He uses some contrastive pairs, but few three-point lists — for all the talk of Mr Kinnock's verbosity. Mr Major has trouble marshalling facts, too.

For all the minutiae of the spat, not one newsworthy fact emerges. Just look at Monday morning's front pages, which concentrated on the return of Mrs Thatcher.

So what is the answer, if even our best interviewers seem to be overwhelmed? The BBC's *On the Record* featured Jonathan Dimbleby interviewing John Smith. It was less demotic than Walden, with Mr Dimbleby asking quiet but searching questions, quoting union leader's views which seemed to contradict Mr Smith's.

But Mr Smith played straight bat without rhetoric, just simple answers. The news item from the programme that made the papers was a poll which followed it.

Although there can be no doubt that the election is taking place, it is far less easy to say just what it is.

ROBIN HUNT



Pressing on: Neil Kinnock, right, watched by Nigel Williamson, centre, meets tomorrow's voters on the last election campaign trail

## Campaign on a knife's edge

Nigel Williamson recalls his finest hour after weeks of wining and dining the press for Neil Kinnock during the 1987 election

As the nation was going to the polls to vote Mrs Thatcher back into Downing Street on June 11, 1987, I was enjoying a leisurely breakfast in the tiny Welsh terrace house that is Neil Kinnock's constituency home.

The sun poured into the Pontillanfraith two-up two-down. At the end of a long and doleful campaign, the mood among the Labour leader's entourage was surprisingly sunny. Mr Kinnock himself, although he looked weary, seemed relaxed. In less than 24 hours he knew he would be going back to his London home in Ealing and the familiar problems of Opposition.

Over breakfast we joked about the fact that most of the leader's dozen closest aides were disenfranchised. In Wales for polling day, almost every one of us had forgotten to apply for a postal vote in our London constituencies, many of them highly marginal.

Until the phone call from Vincent Hanna, the BBC presenter who fronted *Newsnight*'s famously accurate exit polls, our oversight had scarcely seemed important.

I had been asked by Mr Kinnock to join Patricia Hewitt and Hilary Coffman to make up a team of three press officers to shepherd the 50-strong press corps which dogged the Labour leader on his whirlwind tour around the country. For more than three weeks I had spent up to 18 hours a day with the man who would be prime minister.

On that election day morning, Mr Hanna was encouraging. I think it was Charles Clarke, Mr Kinnock's chief aide, who answered the phone, but Mr Kinnock was soon talking animatedly to the BBC man. Mr Hanna did not tell Mr Kinnock he could win, but certainly suggested that the Tories lead might be far smaller than predicted.

In the face of the scale of the defeat, this late rallying of false

hopes was perhaps the cruellest blow of all. As I sat later that night with Neil and Glensy Kinnock at the back of the hall where the 150,000 count was being conducted, we cursed *Newsnight* for its exit poll which had predicted a Tory lead of only 5 per cent lead almost as roundly as we cursed the victorious Tories.

Yet, despite the extent of Labour's humiliation, Mr Kinnock bore defeat with dignity.

My task on the campaign team had been a simple but enjoyable one. I spent half my time with Mr Kinnock, and the rest fraternising with the press, on the instructions of both Mr Kinnock and Pat Hewitt, his chief press secretary. Two weeks after polling, Mr Kinnock wrote to thank me: "... I am particularly grateful for the efforts which you made to prevent the wolves from being too ravenous."

My efforts had, indeed, been considerable. I had, with relish, eaten my way through the most expensive menus and swilled champagne on journalists' expense accounts. It was a vital job, because Mr Kinnock himself stayed, mainly aloof. Alistair Campbell of the *Mirror* was very much part of the leader's inner circle and *The Independent* and *The Guardian* occasionally enjoyed private briefings. The rest scarcely saw him.

Ms Hewitt, too, spent as little time with the "reptiles", her name for the press, as possible. But Hilary Coffman, a charming, highly professional press officer, had a sense of fun which went down well.

The "eat drink and be merry" approach worked, never more so than when Mr Kinnock made a

politically sensitive trip to Liverpool. It had been kept quiet from the press and from most of the local party on Merseyside, still in the grip of Militants. Ms Hewitt and Ms Coffman both went sick on the morning we were due to fly to the land of Derek Hatton, leaving me to cope with 50 journalists on potentially the most explosive trip of the tour.

My technique was crude, but effective. I appealed to barroom companionship. The journalists underwrote the story. The worst even *The Sun* could do was to recycle a routine attack by David

Alton, the local Liberal Democrat. It was, perhaps, my finest hour in three weeks of dedicated eating and drinking for Mr Kinnock. But if the Labour leader was suspicious about mixing with the journalists, Glensy Kinnock had no such inhibitions. The days when she and Nita Clarke, her press officer, joined the touring circus were invariably the most fun. Ms Clarke insisted on calling the travelling press party her "bunnies". They loved her for it, and she should have been guaranteed a senior role in Mr Kinnock's new model party for years to come. But, she had worked for Ken Livingstone. Then she had married Tony Benn's oldest son.

With Ms Clarke's encouragement, however, Glensy Kinnock

mixed freely with the press, and was glad of their company while she kept out of her husband's way during his notoriously tortuous speech-writing sessions. On one famous occasion, we arrived at a Darlington hotel with four hours to kill before that evening's rally. It also happened to be the birthday of Mike Cassell, of *The Financial Times*. Mr Kinnock disappeared to work on his speech. Downstairs, the champagne flowed and by 6pm Mrs Kinnock was sitting under a table assisting at least two journalists who were the worse for wear to place calls to their London offices on a mobile phone.

No photographer there dreamt of capturing the scene for their papers. Mr Kinnock's relations with the press were more difficult. In his younger days he had been a regular in the press bar at the House of Commons, freely trading jokes with journalists. No doubt he was cultivating influential reporters, but he also seemed genuinely to enjoy the company. Over the years, however, he had grown increasingly wary of journalists, surely more to his own disadvantage than to that of the press lobby.

Two incidents stand out as regards Mr Kinnock's relations with the press. The first occurred during a trip to the West Midlands when I told him that Jon Smith, the Press Association reporter, had filed a report accusing the Labour leader of backing Militants. All Mr Kinnock had said was that he supported all Labour candidates in the region — which included Dave Nellist.

Mr Kinnock was furious. I was quietly taken on one side by Charles Clarke and told: "We try not to tell him things like that."

His political instincts are finely tuned. Five years ago I repeatedly heard him tell anyone who would listen that if the Tories won the poll tax would dominate the next Parliament. He even predicted that it would destroy Mrs Thatcher. The rest is history.

Yet, above all, he showed himself to be an ordinary man. He is now pined against an opponent who also prides himself on his ordinariness. If Chris Patten and his cohorts in Tory Central Office still believe that Mr Kinnock's personality is Labour's Achilles heel, those on the last campaign trail saw enough to suspect that they may well have made a serious misjudgment.

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Let me make it clear: detailed though the reporting has been, I do not know precisely what passed between Charles Anson, the Queen's press secretary, and Paul Reynolds, the BBC's diplomatic and court correspondent, last Thursday. Nor does anyone else.

I am aware of the hypocritical hullabaloo which erupted following their talk after the announcement of the curious breakdown of the Duke and Duchess of York's marriage. I know Mr Anson and Mr Reynolds and I am familiar with the rules that govern the conduct of relations between them — press officer and journalist. They are the same at both ends of the Mail.

So let us start with the rules. There are three governing the transmission of information to journalists.

1. On the record. Any information given and remarks made can be quoted and attributed by the informant.

# Confusion reins at the Palace

2. Unattributable, otherwise known as the lobby system: here the information imparted can be freely used but the source must not be disclosed. Hence the description of me in No 10 in the 1980s as "sources close to the prime minister".

3. Off the record. Under this rule, devised in a more honourable age of journalism, nothing may be imparted or broadcast. It is extremely risky, to say the least, to give any journalist anything you do not wish to be made public. And fastidious journalists refuse to receive anything off the record, for their hands would be tied if they got the same information elsewhere.

There is nothing complicated about these rules. The problem lies in the way

journalists choose to interpret them. My understanding is that Charles Anson believed he was having a background, off-the-record chat with Mr Reynolds. Mr Reynolds clearly treated it as an unattributable occasion, demonstrating that there is a fine line between unattributable and on the record when you identify the source establishment where the informant works.

Given the forensic zeal which journalists bring these days to identify who said what to whom, it is only a matter of hours before the informant is identified, exhibited in

**PRESS WATCH**  
**Bernard Ingham**



the stocks, intimidated by the majesty and pomp and left professionally for dead — only to rise again on the third day when another diversion occurs. I have been shot so many times that John Biffen's "sewer" — as he charmingly described me — is lead-lined.

This brings me to Mr Anson. He is a personal friend. He was a very effective member of my press office in Mrs Thatcher's early days. They come no more upright and decent than Charles Anson.

Knowing him for the professional he

is, my guess is that he rehearsed the Duchess's manifest difficulties in adapting to the royal fishbowl. It would have been surprising had he not indicated some pain in royal circles over her reported behaviour and the breakup of another royal marriage. Otherwise he would not have been credible.

Nor would he have been human had he failed to speculate on the source of the leak to the *Daily Mail* which made the election seem more than unusually boring.

I often told successive Palace press secretaries that, paradoxically, they had to handle the really rough trade. Which brings me to Mr Reynolds who, paradoxically again, is anything but that. He is immensely experienced. He

few several missions with Mrs Thatcher abroad and helpfully interviewed me after a young soldier sunk his rifle butt in my ample tunic in Kano. But he has more than a touch of arrogance and superiority, which was shown to advantage when I thanked him for tipping me off about a story his inventive colleagues were concocting after a briefing of mine in Switzerland. Perish the thought, he indicated disdainfully, that he might have been instrumental in helping me!

So what conclusion do I draw? Well, Mr Anson was either altogether too trusting, or there was genuine confusion over the interview terms, or he was badly let down. I had been at the heart of a similar shindig, the BBC would by now be looking for another court correspondent. But then I am not an officer and a gentleman like Mr Anson.

© Sir Bernard Ingham was Mrs Thatcher's chief press secretary

edge

## Auntie goes into the risk business

The head of BBC Television has launched an adventurous five-year plan to put the Corporation back onto the high ground. Will it work? Melinda Wittstock investigates

Battle plans to win the hearts and minds of television viewers have been drawn up by a BBC determined to justify its licence fee as commercial competitors threaten more alarming advances in the ratings war.

With morale of programme-makers at its lowest ebb, the managing director of BBC Television has issued a rallying call to his troops, exhorting them to retake the high ground of broadcasting with the type of fearless risk-taking that long ago earned the Corporation its global reputation for innovation and quality.

Will Wyatt's five-year plan will banish repeats, American series and big-prize game shows from peaktime BBC schedules. Instead, viewers will be treated to an extra 130 hours of original drama plus 50 more hours of new comedy each year, starting this autumn. New light entertainment formats, subtly more upmarket than those of ITV, will also "catch the audience's imagination".



Will Wyatt: at the cutting edge

Consistent with the usual lofty pronouncements issued from the offices of BBC executives, programme-makers have been told they must "aspire to excellence", be prepared to do "difficult things", big things to change public perception about what television can achieve and put BBC Television "in the lead with quality and innovation".

Mr Wyatt's initiative follows last autumn's collapse in the popularity of BBC1. Ratings fell to their lowest level in years to languish at around 33-34 per cent, a full 10 points behind ITV. Expensive new dramas, such as *Trainer* and *Specials*, were outgunned by ITV's *Ruth Rendell Mysteries*, *London's Burning*, *Prime Suspect* and *The Bill*, while audiences deserted state standbys like *Wogan* and *That's Life*. Replacement for retired oldies like *Howard's Way*, *All Creatures Great and Small* and *Bergerac* failed to come through. More often than not, eight of the top ten rated programmes each week are on ITV.

With its public funding, range of services and very ethos under

threat as politicians ponder a shake up of the Corporation before the expiry of its royal charter in 1996, the BBC now faces its biggest challenge. Executives are trying to reconcile the apparently irreconcilable: being all things to all viewers while at the same time offering audiences something their commercial rivals do not provide.

On this conundrum, Mr Wyatt is wholly predictable. "BBC Television must serve all purposes to the whole public as a mainstream public service broadcaster," The

It easily with the BBC's purpose. Jonathan Powell (the BBC1 controller) tried out *Old Flames*, but it just didn't look right on the BBC. Central has now picked it up," he says. *Old Flames*, a raunchier version of *Blind Date*, attracted an audience of six million when BBC1 ran pilot episodes.

"We do want to provide a lot of highly-watched programmes, but we are not going to do it by mimicking every format our competitors come up with," he says. Staff are being told that quality must never be sacrificed in the quest for high ratings, although capturing a large audience need not be a testament to lack of quality. Mr Wyatt offers *Noel's House Party*, with audiences of 12.7 million, as an example of quality with a mass-market appeal.

Musical and arts programming must also be "refocused" to appeal to a wider cross-section of the population. Both channels have been called on to provide more coverage of the mainstream and the classical in order to correct a disproportionate number of shows for a minority of trendy viewers. "We put design on the agenda, but we must ensure that the whole of Britain's cultural heritage is regularly covered," Wyatt says. New composers, artists, choreographers, filmmakers and poets have meanwhile been commissioned to create new works for BBC2 this spring in *Commissions and Collaborations*, an effort to keep the BBC "at the cutting edge of cultural activity".

Although repeats will no longer be used to "plug gaps in the schedule", Mr Wyatt plans inventive use of archive drama and comedy material. "Lime Grove Day was an innovative way of getting some value out of our archives," he says. Indeed the popularity of repeats in Channel 4's *TV Heaven* on Saturday nights has led Alan Yentob, controller of BBC2, to answer back this spring with *TV Hell*, a light-hearted look at some of the most notorious television turkeys.



Bafta comedy award winners: Richard Wilson and Annette Crosbie star in *One Foot In the Grave*

With ITV destabilised by last October's widely-criticised blind-bid auction, the BBC is better placed than it might have been to catch up in the ratings battle. BBC1 already shows some signs of turning the tables on ITV with revitalised weekend peak schedules. *One Foot In the Grave*, which won the Bafta best comedy award on Sunday night, as well as *Noel's House Party*, *So Haunt Me*, *Lovejoy* and *Mastermind*, have conspired to push ITV's share down to its lowest in well over a year — 39.5 per cent against BBC1's 35.4 per cent.

This autumn, BBC1 will be pinning its hopes on *Little England*, a new three-weekly soap about expats in the Costa del Sol, which is to replace *Wogan*.

Bracing itself for an inevitable decline in ratings as the number

and competitiveness of new channels increases, the BBC has opted to measure its performance by the number of people it reaches at some point each week. Only a year ago, Jonathan Powell was quoted saying that ratings of 37-40 per cent were a "proper share", but Mr Wyatt will not now be drawn on new bottom line audience numbers.

From this autumn, he will be content as long as BBC1 and BBC2 continue to be watched for a minimum of two hours each week in at least 90 per cent of television households. By this measurement, both channels are attracting as many viewers this year as last, but people are watching 30 minutes less each week.

The common wisdom throughout the industry, however, is that the BBC will have a difficult time

persuading politicians to keep the licence fee if audience reach falls much below 90 per cent or if BBC1's average weekly ratings drop below 25 per cent. But for the Corporation, which has freed an extra £60 million each year to revitalise BBC1's drama and comedy output, such a doomsday scenario, while a real worry, seems unlikely to transpire before 1996.

Range and diversity of output is the key. "If ratings go down a point or two and what we have on are repeats and acquired US output, then we've got a real problem. But if ratings go down and what we've got on is terrific, no one is going to mind," Mr Wyatt says.

Meanwhile many people in the BBC, indeed the television industry as a whole, are worried by the apparent demoralisation of many

'We do want to provide a lot of highly-watched programmes, but we are not going to do it by mimicking'

WILL WYATT

programme-makers. Ripples of redundancies are transforming more and more BBC producers, writers and directors into nervous people on one-month contracts, while many of those who remain complain that they are being turned into accountants by the reforms, which force BBC TV resource departments to compete with outside contractors in an effort to cut waste and inefficiency.

Even senior programme executives have agonised over the Producer Choice reforms announced last October: they feel they will spend too much of their creative time haggling over the prices of crews and makeup artists.

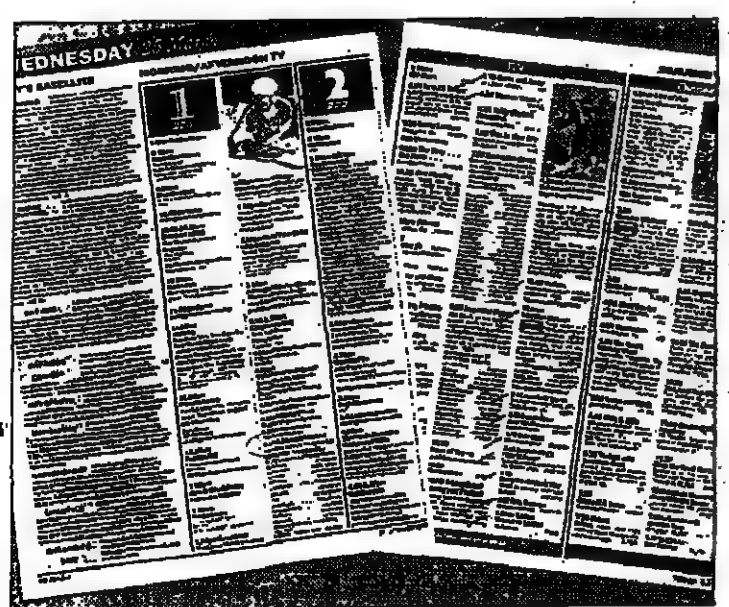
Meanwhile, John Birt, who takes over from Sir Michael Checkland as director-general in April next year, has also frustrated creative talent with his preoccupation for news and current affairs. His critics tend to talk of the record, but Alan Plater, the acclaimed television writer whose latest credit is Granada's *Malgrit*, says: "Drama writers and producers are aware of a bias at the very top of the BBC towards news and current affairs. They look up and see people like Michael Checkland, John Birt and Marmaduke Hussey at the top and they think: 'This is not quite the Corporation I grew up in.' If I had a particularly dangerous idea, I would now go to Channel 4."

Uncertainty and insecurity have never been conducive to the risk-taking necessary to produce the sort of groundbreaking programmes Mr Wyatt is determined to provide viewers. Not surprisingly he admits that his document, *The Path Ahead*, is aimed at boosting such flagging morale and keeping talent loyal. "We have to ensure that the best talent works for us, and to do that we must create the right creative environment," he says.

"The BBC must be the most adventurous place, the place where the highest standards are set."

Mr Wyatt's blueprint for the future is hardly revolutionary. But his rallying call is wholly necessary: "In times of uncertainty, when morale is low, it is important to make explicit what is often implicit, to spell out to people our core values of excellence, range and creative ambition. We need another golden age of BBC Television."

## Fleet Street saves millions after the listings battle



Radio Times and TV Times are thought to have spent more than £1 million each to protect their billings copyright

Britain's newspaper and magazine publishers are celebrating a significant windfall. After a year of uncertainty, the government's Copyright Tribunal last week ruled firmly in their favour in their dispute with the BBC and Independent Television Publications (ITP) over charges for television listings.

Instead of over £13 million, as demanded by the BBC and ITP, the publishers will only have to pay around £2 million. Twenty national newspapers, which were looking at a collective bill of £2.2 million, now have to find less than £400,000. It all goes to boost the bottom-line.

"This is a very good result from newspapers' point of view," said Jeremy Deedes, executive editor of both the *Daily* and the *Sunday Telegraph*. Under the original proposals from the BBC and ITP, his two titles would have paid £187,000 and £37,000 respectively. Now their bills will be only £24,000 and £1,870 — sums arrived at by multiplying the tribunal's suggested royalty of 0.003 pence by a paper's circulation and then by the number of days it publishes listings.

The BBC and ITV look like losers after last week's copyright finding, but they may still have some cards to play

names of the stars. However, the act also abolished the "duopoly", or exclusive right enjoyed by the BBC's commercial arm, BBC Enterprises (BBCE), and ITP to publish these listings in their own profitable magazines, *Radio Times* and *TV Times*.

From March 1, 1991, there was to be an "open market" in television listings and, ever since, BBCE and ITP have been trying to maximise their revenue from their copyright in that additional information, the billings. According to reliable estimates, they have spent over £1 million each, mainly in legal fees, in what now seems to have been a fruitless defensive campaign.

Dr John Thomas, director of BBCE's magazine division, is "most unhappy" at the tribunal's "drastic undervaluation" of their copyright. He and Nigel Davidson, his opposite number at ITP, a subsidiary of the International Publishing Corporation (IPC), must decide by mid-April whether to incur further costs by appealing against last week's decision.

that they can choose for themselves what they want to see". The "public interest" need for "wide dissemination of and easy access to programme material" was more important than the copyright holders' financial interests, the tribunal said.

Such arguments had not escaped the BBC or ITV companies which, in a complicated manoeuvre, had assigned their copyright

ed by the tribunal. Dr Thomas notes that several national newspapers have recently started seven-day listings supplements, in direct competition with *Radio Times* and *TV Times*. He says this is remarkable considering that they argued at the tribunal that television listings were not important to either their circulation or advertising revenues.

Following the lead of *The Sun* and *Daily Mirror* late last year, the *Daily Telegraph*, *Sunday Times*, *Daily Express*, *Daily Mail*, *Daily Star* and *Today* have all introduced seven-day listings in recent weeks. *The Guardian* and *The Independent* are expected to follow suit.

Mr Deedes now foresees listings becoming "one of the regular services" offered by newspapers: "they're never going to be a great money-spinner, but they will be among the things you expect to find in your paper, like race cards and stock prices".

To provide this "service", a new sub-industry is developing. CNS, a subsidiary of the Press Agency, is one of four main companies aiming to take the sweat out of listings for newspapers and magazines. Chris Mellor, CNS's managing director, notes that his listings — priced between £8 and £60 per day — are very cost-effective compared with normal

editorial charges. BBCE even has its own subsidiary, Broadcast Data Services, which turns over £1 million a year packaging listings for more than 40 other publishers. Mellor hints that BBCE's closeness to the BBC gives it an unfair competitive advantage, but Robert Hall, BBCE's managing director, dismisses this.

The prospect of an appeal has been restricted by the fact that ITP's copyright runs out at the end of 1992. This is likely to deter its parent, IPC, from committing further funds to a battle with a tribunal which has just pronounced so conclusively. ITV companies will discuss their reaction to the tribunal's decision on April 6. They are likely to set up an agency, to be run alongside their new central scheduler, to provide their statutory information and market their own value added programme listings.

Tony Elliott, publisher of *Time Out* and chairman of the TV Listings Campaign, against the "duopoly", forecasts that, within a year, BBCE will also have to abandon its efforts to charge for billings. He says that, now "the mess has cleared and people can make a rational choice", there will be new entrants in the listings market. And he offers "an idea for free" to illustrate the way things are going — an A5 listings magazine, subsidised by an oil company and given out to any customer who spends more than £20 on petrol.

	ITP £	BBC £	Award £
Daily Express	31,900	200,827	17,818
Daily Mail	33,344	212,127	19,586
Daily Mirror	44,846	272,219	38,570
Daily Star	24,781	138,329	8,100
The Sun	51,682	302,943	42,053
Today	21,825	81,865	5,580
Daily Telegraph	27,343	159,680	12,237
News of the World	52,751	58,367	7,799
Sunday Express	27,576	34,594	2,932
Sunday Mirror	36,928	44,750	5,552
The People	33,229	41,514	3,793
TOTALS	820,327	1,760,522	208,177

'Listings will be among the things you expect to find in your paper'

to ITP. The tribunal noted, for example, how a speaker at the BBC Board of Management in early 1991 remarked: "A commercially sound solution might conflict with the BBC's public service obligations."

However, the BBC fought its corner on its estimate that rival publishers could expect windfall profits of more than £60 million a year from television listings. Though this argument was reject-

ANDREW LYCETT











# If houses voted, who would win?

Which party's promises offer most hope to the beleaguered homeowner?

Rachel Kelly goes policy-hunting

Labour's taxation policies would be a "fast-spreading cancer" which would rip the heart out of the housing market in every part of Britain, John Major said last week. Fighting talk, and predictable enough, but the housing experts agree. Last week, the consensus was that Labour's budget proposals would be disastrous for the housing market.

David Ware, the president of the National Association of Estate Agents, said that nothing in the shadow budget would breathe life into the stagnant market.

Labour had neither suggested extending mortgage interest tax relief from its £30,000 threshold, nor did its manifesto mention a permanent abolition of stamp duty, which is now suspended but due to be reintroduced in August.

Other agents were more damning. "Labour's proposals would do considerable damage to the housing market," said James Laing, a partner at Stutt & Parker. The shadow chancellor's proposals for increased tax rates would hit mid-range professional executives earning around £50,000, who were the key to the growth of the property

market, Mr Laing said. Only when the middle sector of the market got moving again would other sectors follow.

Steven Bell, the chief economist at Morgan Grenfell, the merchant bank, commented on the £1.5 million on more than £30,000 who, he said, will be "smashed in the face" by Labour's tax proposals. "They face up to a 20 per cent loss in incomes, which will mean a heavy hit on the top end of the housing market, with more repossession and distressed selling."

Those on £22,000 and over will also be hit by about a 4 per cent loss of income. "This is quite significant," said Mr Bell. "When you are moving house, you make pretty fine calculations."

Building societies, too, reacted gloomily. The Woolwich estimated that Labour's tax plans would remove about £3 billion from potential house buyers between 1991 and 1992.

Fair comment, but what of the Tory record? It is hard to defend the government's contribution to the housing market, given the slump. House prices have been falling in the South-East at least since 1988. It was the Conservatives who failed



Wary of the Labour party's housing plans: James Laing with his wife, Jane, at home in Berkshire

to control the lending bonanza of the 1980s, which led in part to the plight of more than 75,000 whose homes were repossessed last year, while the abolition of twin tax relief led to an artificial boom and slump.

Equally, its manifesto has some imaginative proposals for homeowners. It hopes to end gazumping and suggests tighter controls over estate agents, both of which would be welcome. There are plans to help

first-time buyers with a package of measures. Their mortgage repayments will be reduced by concentrating their tax relief on the early years of homeownership.

Mr Ware said: "There is not a tremendous amount of difference between this budget and Mr Lamont's budget so far as the housing market is concerned."

Unquestionably though, the Conservative ethos is that the home

must remain the Briton's castle. The Tories wish to boost homeownership to 75 per cent from its present level of 68 per cent, while Labour believes the boundaries of home ownership are already severely stretched. Mr Lamont's budget gives property owners considerable advantages, albeit indirectly.

Tax levels are either pegged at their current rates or could come

down under the Tories," Mr Laing said. "People would be better off able to move house, and the market would get moving."

The Woolwich fears a hung parliament after April 9. "This would create continued uncertainty about government policies, and result in later recoveries in both the economy and the housing market than either an outright victory for Labour or the Conservatives."

Plans by the Liberal Democrats to replace mortgage interest tax relief with "housing cost relief" weighted towards those most in need and available to buyers and renters would deal a body blow to home ownership in the short term, but could prove popular in the long term.

New homeowners have discovered to their cost the dangers of investing in bricks and mortar. A party that encourages the rented sector could win votes.

Regardless of who wins the election, perhaps the single most important factor to affect the market is interest rates. The scale of government borrowing means that they are likely to rise even if the Tories are returned.

"The one thing that will bring the present recovery to a standstill is an administration that would borrow and tax more," Sir George Young, the housing minister, has said. He was talking about Labour, but his remarks could equally apply to the Tories.



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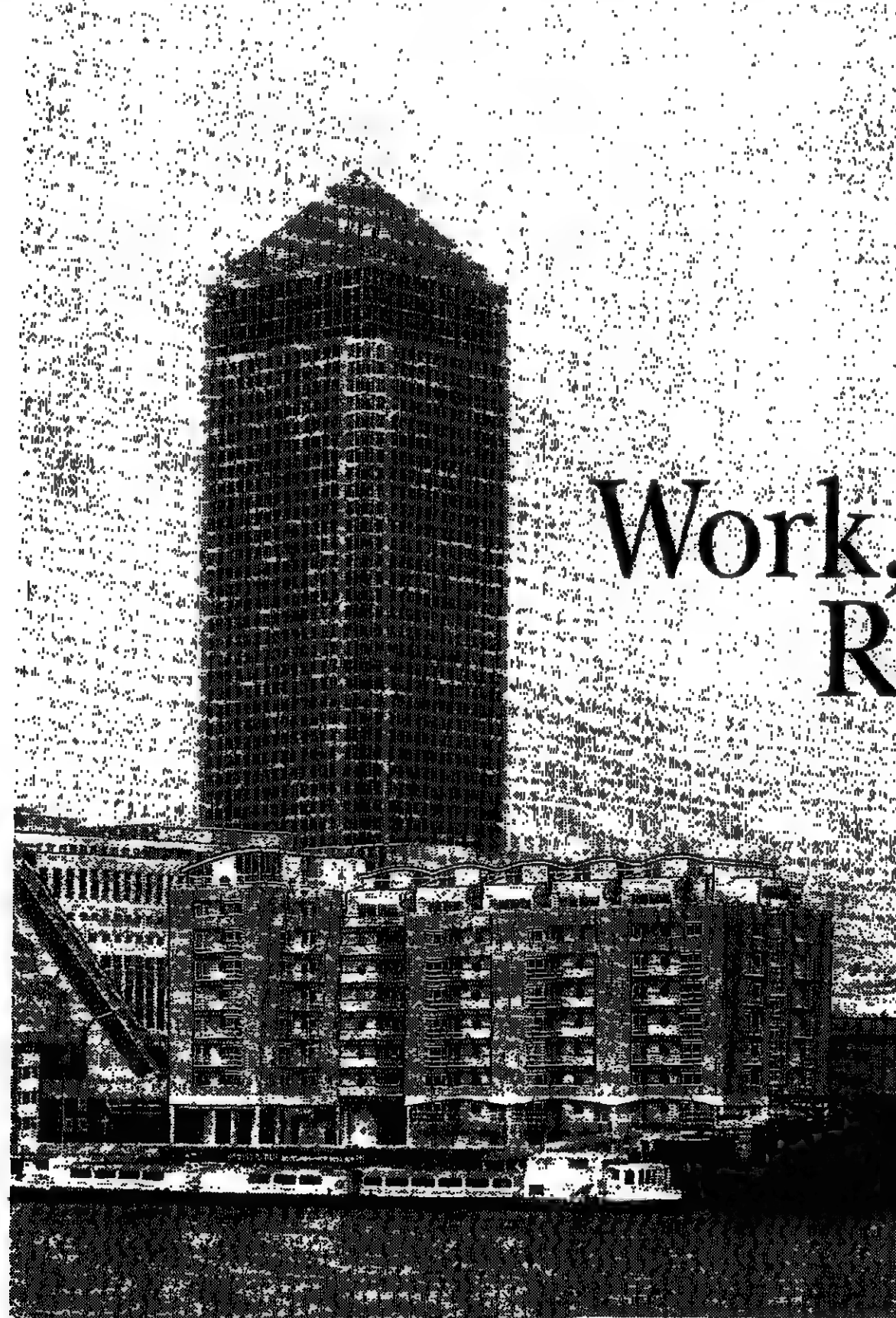
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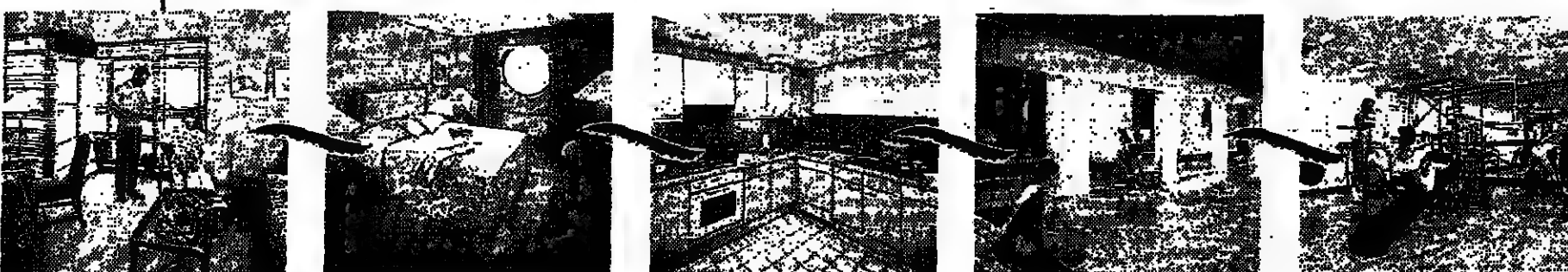
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Many companies considered rent as the only cost when moving, despite the expense of fitting out and long-term operating costs.

ning application to Northavon district council to build a leisure complex at Cribbs Causeway on a 16-acre site next to the M5 at Bristol. The complex will feature a ten-screen multiplex cinema, a tennis bowling alley, a nightclub and up to four restaurants.

Graham Maskell, Prudential's investment manager, says Bristol is one of the few large UK cities without a modern leisure complex of this nature. The complex would complement a proposed regional shopping centre.

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# Right to sue for pre-birth harm

# Police cannot retain money

**B v Islington Health Authority**  
De Marcell v Merton and Sutton Health Authority  
Before Lord Justice Dillon, Lord Justice Balcombe and Lord Justice Leggatt

[Judgment March 18]  
Children with disabilities caused by alleged negligent medical treatment before they were born had a cause of action against the health authorities.

The Court of Appeal so held in dismissing appeals (i) by Islington Health Authority against the decision of Mr Justice Potts (1991) QB 638 who dismissed its application to strike out the statement of claim of B, the plaintiff, as disclosing no reasonable cause of action and (2) by Merton and Sutton Health Authority against the decision of Mr Justice Phillips on May 5, 1991 who found as a preliminary issue that on the allegations made by the plaintiff, Christopher De Marcell, the defendant was liable in tort for those acts and/or omissions committed before the plaintiff's birth.

In B the alleged negligence was the carrying out of a dilation and curettage when the plaintiff was an embryo in her mother's womb, which operation it was alleged should not have been performed on a pregnant woman.

In De Marcell the plaintiff was born with brain damage and cerebral palsy after a failed forceps delivery. He was delivered by Caesarian section.

Mr Piers Ashworth, QC and Mr John O. B. Grace for Islington Health Authority; Mr Daniel Brennan, QC and Mr Alesar Forster for B; Mr Harvey McGregor, QC and Miss Jean Rieck for Merton and Sutton Health Authority; Mr Adrian Whitfield, QC and Mr Peter Latham for Mr De Marcell.

**LORD JUSTICE DILLON** said that the question was whether a child born alive and who suffered disabilities as a result of alleged negligent medical treatment while he was *in utero* could maintain an action for negligence.

The Congenital Disabilities (Civil Liability) Act 1976 applied only to children born after the passing of the Act and the present cases had to be decided according to the law previously in force which was essentially the common law.

It was common ground that if, for example, a manufacturer negligently made and marketed a car with defective brakes and a predictable accident followed after the car was sold with a child in the car, it would be no defence to say that the child had not been born when the car was manufactured.

While accepting that the defendants submitted that a child *in utero* was not a person in the eyes of the law, there was no doubt that there were authorities which supported the general proposition that a fetus enjoyed no independent legal personality. *Paton v British Pregnancy Advisory Service Trustees* (1979) QB 276, *In re F (in utero)* (1988) Fam 122, *C v S* (1988) QB 135.

There were other contexts in which the English courts adopted as part of the common law the maxim *Qui in utero est, pro iam habetur*, *Quotus de ejus commodis quartus* (2 Bla Com) that an unborn child was deemed to be born whenever its interests required.

It was on the basis of the civil law that Mr Justice Latham, delivering the leading judgment of the majority in a decision of the Supreme Court of Canada held in *Menzies v Menzies* (1933) 4 DLR 337 that when a

child was not born at the time of an accident and was subsequently born alive, it was clothed with all rights of action. A wider view was taken by Mr Justice Cannon without reliance on the maxims of the civil law.

It was open to the English courts to apply the maxim directly to the present cases and treat the two plaintiffs in lives in being at the time when they were injured, although it was not necessary to do so directly because of *Monreal Transpore*.

Mr Ashworth referred to a number of United States decisions. The general theme was that decisions between 1884 and 1945 held that a child *in utero* could not recover and he submitted that those decisions represented the pure doctrine of the common law while decisions after 1945 reaching the opposite view were wrong.

The post-1945 US decisions held as a development of the common law that a child could recover damages for pre-natal injuries.

His Lordship was most reluctant to hold that the common law, although capable of development in every other jurisdiction, crystallised a long time ago in English law.

Mr Ashworth and Mr MacGregor submitted that the position crystallised with the last decision in English law before the 1976 Act which was *Walker v Great Northern Railway Co of Ireland* (1890) 28 QB & Ex (11) 69 in which the pregnant mother fell in a train as a result of the negligence of the railway company and the child was born deformed. The court held that the statement of claim disclosed no cause of action.

In his Lordship's judgment, the decision in *Walker* was profoundly unsatisfactory not least because if not all three mem-

bers of the court attached weight to the fact that the railway company sold one ticket and not two. If valid today, a child under three who travelled free on British Rail would have no cause of action for negligence.

With the enactment of the 1976 Act, Parliament deliberately left open cases such as the present ones. Such cases were to be decided to the law in force prior to the Act, that is, the common law which did not simply mean *Walker* but the law which the court would apply including foreign authorities.

The common law cases of *Watt v Rama* (1972) VR 353 and *Duval v Seguin* (1972) 26 DLR (3d) 418 were to be preferred to *Walker*.

The appeals would be dismissed. Lord Justice Balcombe agreed and Lord Justice Leggatt delivered a concurring judgment.

Solicitors: Beachcroft Stanleys; Pannone March Pearson, Manchester; Capsticks, Pune; Pannone March Pearson.

**Chief Constable of the West Midlands Police v White**

Before Lord Justice Balcombe and Mr Justice Tudor Evans [Judgment March 13]

Police were not entitled to retain money seized from a person who subsequently pleaded guilty to charges of selling intoxicating liquor without a licence, nor were they entitled on the ground of public policy to order to retain it under the Police (Property) Act 1897.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held in a reserved judgment when dismissing the appeal of the Chief Constable of the West Midlands Police against the decision of Mr Bruce Morgan, the Birmingham Specially Designated Magistrate, on July 27, 1990, that £1,268.16 found in the possession of Delgado Dougan White should be returned to him by the police. The magistrate had said the order pending appeal.

Mr John Stenhouse for the police; the respondent did not appear and was not represented.

MR JUSTICE TUDOR EVANS said that following a raid by the police armed with a warrant under the Licensing Act 1964 on premises rented by the respondent, a substantial quantity of alcoholic drink was found. The respondent admitted that he ran the premises as a club and that he did not have a licence to sell intoxicating liquor.

He was searched and money found on his person was seized and retained by the police. The respondent subsequently pleaded guilty to offences under the 1964 Act before the Birmingham Justices on January 20, 1990, when he was sentenced to a conditional discharge and all the liquor found was ordered to be forfeited.

The justices made no order in respect of the money found nor did they determine whether or not the respondent was entitled to the money even though the sale involved was illegal and the contracts of sale void and unenforceable. *Raymond Lyons & Co Ltd v Metropolitan Police Commissioner* (1975) QB 321, 325.

His Lordship said that there was no power under the warrant to seize and retain the money; the statutory power was confined to the seizure and removal of intoxicating liquor and the vessels containing such liquor.

The police were justified in rejecting the pursuer's argument based on the 1976 Act that the sum did not fall to be deducted. However, the pursuers also argued at common law that, since the defendants had not been legally bound to make the payment but had done so *ex gratia* without any provision for recovery, they were not entitled now to seek to deduct the sum.

The Lord Chancellor, Lord Keith, Lord Templeman and Lord Goff agreed. Solicitors: Stephen Kingley for Digby Brown & Co, Edinburgh; Dyson Bell Martin & Co, parliamentary agents for Drummond Miller, WS, Edinburgh and Drummond Cook & Mackintosh, Cupar.

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While it could not be doubted that a magistrate would be fully entitled to decline to make an order under the 1897 Act where it was clear that it would be contrary to public policy to do so, that was not shown to be the situation in the present case.

Parliament had intended that money found on unlicensed premises should be confiscated, provision to that end would have been made in the 1964 Act in the same way as provision was made for the seizure and removal of intoxicating liquor found on the premises and vessels containing the same.

It was highly significant that the 1964 Act contained no such provision. The penalties provided for the relevant offence were severe: see section 160. There was on the other hand a power to fine apart from the penalty of imprisonment.

Moreover, offences under the 1964 Act were absolute and the degree of culpability involved had to vary widely. As Mr Stenhouse accepted, there could be no right to follow and recover money which a person convicted of selling unlicensed liquor had banked.

The argument that the purchaser of the liquor were possible owners was a red herring because in no circumstances could they claim any right to an interest in the money which they had paid to the respondent, quite apart from the fact that it was impossible to identify them.

Therefore the respondent did not have to rely on any legal contract to assert that the money was his. It had been taken from him by the police under statutory power which entitled them to retain it for a limited time and for limited purposes which gave no title to retain the money.

Lord Justice Balcombe agreed. Solicitors: Mr John M. Kilbey, Birmingham.

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## Tribunal is not bound by trial

**Regina v Metropolitan Police Disciplinary Tribunal, Ex parte Police Complaints Authority**  
The general proposition that false statements made at the trial of a convicted defendant could not form the subject of disciplinary proceedings so long as that conviction stood was not supported by authority.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court (Lord Justice Nolan and Mr Justice Jowitt) so held on March 20 when granting an application by the Police Com-

plaints Authority to quash a decision of the Metropolitan Police Disciplinary Tribunal to stay disciplinary proceedings against two police officers on the ground of abuse of process.

LORD JUSTICE NOLAN said it had to be clearly recognised that *Huntley v Chief Constable of West Midlands Police* (1982) AC 520 was not authority for any general proposition that false statements made at the trial of a convicted defendant could not form the subject of disciplinary proceedings so long as that conviction stood.

The police were justified in rejecting the pursuer's argument based on the 1976 Act that the sum did not fall to be deducted. However, the pursuers also argued at common law that, since the defendants had not been legally bound to make the payment but had done so *ex gratia* without any provision for recovery, they were not entitled now to seek to deduct the sum.

The Lord Chancellor, Lord Keith, Lord Templeman and Lord Goff agreed. Solicitors: Stephen Kingley for Digby Brown & Co, Edinburgh; Dyson Bell Martin & Co, parliamentary agents for Drummond Miller, WS, Edinburgh and Drummond Cook & Mackintosh, Cupar.

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Lord Justice Balcombe agreed. Solicitors: Mr John M. Kilbey, Birmingham.

## Scots Law Report March 25 1992

## Employer's insurance payment not deductible from damages

**Bews v Scottish Hydro-Electric plc**  
Before Lord Abernethy [Judgment February 27]

An *ex gratia* payment made by an employer to the executors of an employee who had died in the course of his employment did not fall to be deducted from a claim for damages brought against the employer by the deceased's dependants.

Lord Abernethy, sitting in the Outer House of the Court of Session, so held when dealing from probate averments by Scottish Hydro-Electric plc that the sum of £54,952.56 should be deducted from any sum which they were found liable to pay by way of reparation to Miss Jane Bews and others.

Section 15(1)(b) of the Damages (Scotland) Act 1976 provides: "In assessing... the amount of any loss of support suffered by a relative of the deceased, no account shall be taken of... any insurance money, benefit, pension or gratuity which has been... paid as a result of the deceased's death."

Mr Iain Peabody for the pursuers; Mr David Burns for the defenders.

LORD ABERNETHY said that the widow and sons of the deceased sought reparation in respect of his death in the course of his employment with the defenders. The defenders had been in-

sured against such deaths and had previously so advised all their employers by a notice which stated that the defenders were the insured and that payments of insurance proceeds were made to dependants of employees at the defenders' discretion and might be taken into account in the payment of a claim against the defenders.

£54,952.56 had been paid by the insurers to the defenders and by the defenders to the deceased's executors. The defenders now averred that that sum fell to be deducted from any damages payable to the pursuers.

With regard to section 1 of the 1976 Act, it was true that, as the pursuers argued, the payment would not have been made if the deceased's death had not occurred. But it had not been made as a result of his death. It was not his death which had triggered the payment. On the contrary, the payment had been triggered by the exercise of the defenders' discretion.

If they had not exercised their discretion in that way, the payment would not have been made. For that reason his Lordship rejected the pursuers' argument based on the 1976 Act that the sum did not fall to be deducted.

However, the pursuers also argued at common law that, since the defendants had not been legally bound to make the payment but had done so *ex gratia* without any provision for recovery, they were not entitled now to seek to deduct the sum.

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Lord Justice Balcombe agreed. Solicitors: Mr John M. Kilbey, Birmingham.

## Facts found at first instance stand

**Leung v Scottish Grain Distillers Ltd**  
Before Lord Mackay of Clackmannan, Lord Keith of Kinkell, Lord Templeman, Lord Goff of Chieveley and Lord Jauncey of Tullichettle [Speeches February 27]

The pursuer, having pleaded that he had slipped on a wet cask in an outdoor store, was not entitled to a finding as to whether the snow had been dangerous when dry.

The House of Lords dismissed an appeal by the pursuer, Mr Archibald Mitchell Leung, from the Second Division of the Inner House of the Court of Session (Lord Ross, Lord Justice-Clerk, Lord Dunpark and Lord Jauncey) who on December 7, 1990, had refused the pursuer's appeal from the sheriff court.

The sheriff court had found that the pursuer, a Chinese national, had slipped on a wet cask in an outdoor store. The defenders, Scottish Grain Distillers Ltd, from the pursuer's action against them for damages for personal injuries sustained by him in an accident which he averred had been due to their negligence and breach of statutory duty under section 29(1) of the Factories Act 1961.

Mr Colin MacAulay, QC and Mr Ian Peabody for the pursuer; Mr C. J. M. Sutherland, QC and Mr Eileen Davie for the defenders.

LORD JAUNCEY said that the jurisdiction of the House of Lords in relation to actions raised in the sheriff court was substantially restricted by section 40 of the Court of Session Act 1925. The statute provided that it was restricted to consideration of questions of law arising out of the pleadings and the findings of fact in the Court of Session.

At the hearing the applicants had argued that it was impossible to verify the authenticity of the contested measure and that the contested decision had never existed since it had been adopted neither by the full Commission nor by the member of the Commission responsible for competition matters.

The Commission judges, guided by principles derived from national legal systems, would declare non-existent a measure which was vitiated by particularly serious and manifest defects. This plea related to a matter of public interest which might be relied upon by the parties at any time during the proceedings and had to be raised by the Court of its own motion.

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That finding had, moreover, been acknowledged by the defendant, since it stated itself that it was unable to produce an original decision duly signed and authenticated and that the text of the contested decision was to be inferred from a combined reading of the various documents produced.

The requirement in the second paragraph of article 12 of the CRP, that the

defenders, Scottish Grain Distillers Ltd, from the pursuer's action against them for damages for personal injuries sustained by him in an accident which he averred had been due to their negligence and breach of statutory duty under section 29(1) of the Factories Act 1961.

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## No submission before election

**Barclays De Zoete Wedd Securities Ltd and Others v Nadir**  
Before Mr Justice Knox [Judgment February 28]

The respondent in criminal proceedings for civil contempt was not entitled to make a submission of no case to answer without at the same time making an election as to whether he would call evidence.

MR JUSTICE KNOX so held in the Chancery Division when ruling on a preliminary issue in an action by Barclays De Zoete Wedd Securities Ltd and others against Mr Asil Nadir for alleged breach of *Murphy*, asset-freezing undertakings.

Mr Gabriel Moss, QC and Mr Robin Dicker for the applicants; Mr Anthony Scrivenor, QC and Mr Isaac Jacob for the respondent.

MR JUSTICE KNOX said that the preliminary issue was part of a wider question as to how far criminal rules governed civil contempt proceedings.

There were two categories of case applicable. The first concerned how far criminal rules and procedure applied to civil proceedings to commit for contempt. His Lordship reviewed the authorities and concluded that contempt proceedings were civil but if there were sufficient justification then the courts would and had imported criminal rules.

The most common justification was the seriousness of the conduct complained of which operated to bring in the criminal law standard of proof of beyond reasonable doubt, as well as the privilege against self-incrimination.

The second category consisted of civil cases where the defendant had been put to his election. His Lordship referred to paragraph 35/172 of the *Supreme Court Practice* 1991 and having noted generally that the defendant was put to his election in the absence of a jury went on to say that the issue in the present case was whether there was sufficient ground for departing from the established civil procedure.

It had been submitted on behalf of the respondent that the adoption of the criminal standard of proof in civil contempt proceedings meant that the procedure of the criminal courts in regard to submissions of no case to answer should apply in the present proceedings also.

His Lordship was not persuaded that because the standard of proof in civil contempt proceedings was the criminal one of beyond a reasonable doubt therefore the procedure applicable to the present issue was also that of the criminal courts.

Bearing in mind that the risk of any injustice being done was very slight, as well as that the existence of an absolute right would prolong proceedings, his Lordship would hold that there was no absolute right to withhold evidence until after submission of no case to answer.

Solicitors: Allen & Overy; Pannone Napier.

## European Law Report

## Necessity for rigorous requirements to guarantee legal certainty

**BASF AG and Others v Commission of the European Communities**  
Joined Cases: T-79/89, T-84 to 86/89, T-89/89, T-91/89, T-92/89, T-94/89, T-96/89, T-98/89, T-102/89 and T-104/89

Before Judge D







# The joke is on Poland



The Polish *Spitting Image*: Lech Walesa portrayed as the lion, his spokesman as the raccoon, and the scriptwriter of television's *Polski Zoo*, Marcin Wolski

Olgia Lipinska, a doughty, naturally funny woman, is one of the pioneers of political cabaret in Eastern Europe. She still remembers when her cabaret revue was dropped from Polish television after a junior Soviet diplomat complained about an offensive reference to Russians. That was in 1978.

Lipinska returned to television after things changed. But suddenly, last January, she was stripped of her director's title, and her cabaret was again put in jeopardy. The reason appears to have been some mocking references to the clergy. The Polish government, dominated by the right-wing Christian National Union Party, is close to the Church — and the Church is sensitive to criticism.

These are strange times for political satirists and cabaret artists in Poland. The old enemy — the communist censor — has surrendered, and somehow life is not so much fun any more. Under communism every performance for a large audience, in a concert hall or on television, was carefully monitored (dress rehearsal, first night and at least one other evening) for jokes about the Soviet Union, the Communist Party, its First Secretary and other thin-skinned political clowns.

Some jokes were allowed through, others given more optimistic punchlines. For the most part, though, performers relied on nudges and winks, on grimaces and hand movements, not mentioned in the script that had been submitted to the censor's office. Everybody was tense — the performer, the censor — and the result was frequently hilarious.

Wojciech Młynarski managed to smuggle a reference to Little

Roger Boyes finds that the political jesters of Poland are now directing their irreverent barbs against the Church, the President and the ministers of the Solidarity government

Red Riding Hood into a song (the red hood was communist control) and the censor was carpenter the following day by the Central Committee.

It was a different story for the small basement cabarets such as "Pod Egidą" and "Człowiek z Pławni". They had far more freedom, and indeed seem to have been regarded as a safety valve by the authorities. Let students and intellectuals laugh off their anti-communism in private — that seemed to be the motto. The Polish communists, more than the Czechoslovaks and East Germans, were willing to take cultural risks. Slawomir Mrozek's play, *Policja* (The Police), appeared in the 1950s and was an ironic study of a political prisoner, the only one remaining in an unnamed authoritarian country, who much to the dismay of the whole police establishment, wanted to resign.

Even under martial law in the 1980s at least one Mrozek play was performed and there were several pieces with heavy historical comments about Russian occupiers, the threat to freedom and nasty generals.

Now, in the post-communist era, the political categories have changed. For one thing, there is no obvious enemy. Every Saturday, to a huge audience, Polish television transmits the satirical programme, *Polski Zoo*, which in the mould of *Spitting Image* depicts the country's political class as

different animals. President Walesa is a lion with broken grammar, ex-Premier Tadeusz Mazowiecki, who believes in gradual reform, is a tortoise. But the programme is so harmless that politicians actually lobby to get on

establishment.

The real divisions in the political class are not between communist and anti-communist, but between those who can take a joke and those who cannot. President Walesa, it seems, does not mind being lampooned. Indeed Ryszard Marek Gronski, who regularly writes cabaret pieces, musicals and satirical articles, knows that the president times his rally speeches like a cabaret performer: "It must be all the videos of Piłsudski that he watched during the 1980s. He has the same pacing, the same sense of a punchline."

The president has been trying to find a Warsaw basement for Piłsudski's cabinet, so far without success.

The President's courtiers, however, are not particularly amused when their boss is mocked. Krzysztof Daukowiak regards these courtiers in much the same way as he thought of the communist censors: "Out of 15 minutes of programming, eight minutes were questioned — so it did not go on air," he says of a recently dropped television satire that he had devised. "I think that what was questioned was the form of the humour — with no sentiment for the new authorities or soft soap for the president. That was why the new comrades reacted as they did." He personally blames the President's closest aide, Mieczysław Wachowski.

The most sensitive area of all is the influence of the Roman Catho-

lic Church. On the rare occasions when the Primate, Cardinal Józef Glemp, has been featured on the *Polski Zoo* puppet-cabaret there has been loud moaning from the Christian National Union and other parties even further to the right. *Spółki*, the Polish equivalent of *Private Eye*, thinks nothing of bashing the president's advisers but hesitates before launching into the Church.

Only *Nie* (which means "No"), the scurrilous weekly of former Communist government spokesman Jerzy Urban, publishes regular accounts of corruption in the Church (most of them leaning heavily on gossip rather than research) and cartoons of priests in sexually compromising positions. With this anti-clerical fare, he has built up a circulation of over 400,000, a readership of two million and a considerable personal fortune.

Urban's strength was that he had no reputation to lose and so did not mind offending the church hierarchy or Catholic readers.

The difficulty is for more subtle satirists. Since the Church has political power, it is a legitimate target. But the Church also sheltered artists under martial law, spoke up for human rights, nurtured at least part of Solidarity.

How to be funny about the bishops without looking like a communist degenerate? That is the dilemma that most television chiefs, theatre directors and magazine editors would like to dodge.

Olgia Lipinska, though, is sure that if the post-communist societies start to protect certain groups from criticism, the authoritarian rot will set in. "There should be no protection, no false values, no holy cows. The earlier we detect folly the better."

**'When Cardinal Glemp has been featured on *Polski Zoo* there has been loud moaning from the Christian National Union'**

the show suggesting puppets for themselves. Mrs Walesa has taken exception to being depicted as a mouse but the various cobras, butterflies, chipmunks and hippos have so far accepted their fate. The fact is that *Polski Zoo* and other cabaret artists have been reluctant to stick the knife into the new Solidarity governments. It was the Solidarity era of 1980-81 that truly freed the cabaret spirit. The brilliant mimic Jacek Fedorowicz had kept alive an amusing radio programme in the 1970s, but the 16 months of Solidarity transformed him into a national figure. He represented the carnival element of the Solidarity revolution. Not surprisingly, performers like Fedorowicz and Jan Pietrzak pull their punches against the new Solidarity

## Opera

### Gleeful Gluck

Iphigénie en Tauride  
La Scala, Milan

IPHIGÉNIE en Tauride is Gluck's richest masterpiece, and the ripest fruit of his reforming quest for *bellum simpliciter*, but it is not often performed. Opera houses are afraid of it, and with good reason, since it makes formidable demands on the interpreters.

Singers must find fitting poetic inflections for long lines whose music is ruthlessly indifferent to vocal mechanics; conductors are confronted with orchestration so plain as to appear impoverished, and directors have the task of interesting a modern audience in a mythological plot without a flicker of erotic interest. To cap it all, if the difficulties are not convincingly resolved the greatness of the work itself seems to evaporate into thin air.

La Scala's new production, however, leaves no doubts about *Iphigénie's* stature. Carol Vaness, her voice bathed in hot tears, vividly charts the course of the heroine's misery through to final joy, and is blessed with the indispensable gift of communicating strong emotion through minimal gesture. If the words of the arias are occasionally swallowed up in the stream of glorious sound, her phrasing is still unfailingly attuned to the dramatic moment.

Thomas Allen is a model Gluck singer in every way, fusing music and text into an unforgettable whole by doing full justice to both. His ability to invest even Oreste's one-line utterances with a wealth of poetic significance is extraordinary.

Riccardo Muti conjures string textures from the orchestra that are wonderfully alive, constantly responsive to the stage and suf-



Carol Vaness as Iphigénie

fused with shifting nuance. The sense of impending eruption in "Le calme rentre dans mon cœur" is almost unbearable.

Only the choruses for the Scythians and the Eumenides fail to make an impact, in both cases lacking the special impetus that should differentiate them from the rest of the score.

The director Giancarlo Cobelli strives for an archetypal simplicity that he only fitfully achieves. A typical juxtaposition is the arresting appearance of the shipwrecked prisoners as enormous rope-bound silhouettes looming over the horizon — and over the threshold of Iphigénie's consciousness — followed by distractingly fussy business for their captors.

Paolo Tormmasi's sets frame the action with oppressive masses of rock, and the unnatural white lighting that pierces the gloom makes us feel that we are exploring the world of the heroine's dreams; but Cobelli tends to take his symbols rather too literally, and when Iphigénie is crushed by grief the temple ceiling bears down to crush her as well.

NIGEL JAMIESON

## Theatre

### Double trouble for queen of Palestine

Voltaire called *Bérénice* "no doubt the weakest of Racine's tragedies still played. It isn't even a tragedy, but what beauties of detail, what ineffable charm reigns nearly everywhere in its diction!"

*Bérénice*, the Queen of Palestine, is sent back to her people by her lover, the Emperor Titus, who decides that his duty as sovereign comes before his love, unpopular in Rome. Racine takes this rather special situation and shines light on the relationship as on a precious gem. The sharp focus and economy of this play make *Bérénice* a character to reckon with.

A new museum exhibition at the Granges de Port-Royal at Saint-Quentin-en-Yvelines is also dedicated to her, with a well-produced catalogue from the Réunion des Musées Nationaux. Racine's *Bérénice* is compelling in French for the French, it seems.

Continuing efforts to translate this and other Racine plays only prove how specific this poet's value is to his own culture and the general brilliance of French 17th-century literature, perhaps never bettered in this country's history. The latest literary tribute to the faded era of *Bérénice* is an historical novel about Racine, *The House of Esther* (Grasset, 285pp, 108F) by Yves Dangerfield, a gifted young writer who died of AIDS a few months ago aged 30.

Hence a new production of *Bérénice* raises high expectations. At the Théâtre de l'Athénée two actors play each main role, alternating lines on stage or speaking together. Why? Because the director, Christian Rist, says that their characters "have nothing individ-

**Bérénice**  
Théâtre de l'Athénée  
Louis Jouvet

ual about them". Perhaps that is why Rist chose to have the lines accompanied by offstage songs, knocks, wails, hums, and high-pitched dog whistles. Clearly someone has taken a college course in world theatre, to the point of confusing Racine's work with a visit to the Natural History Museum.

At least the omnipresent alarm watch-beepers in the audience for once fit in with the acoustic mess, instead of distracting from the action. But the young and not untalented cast of *Bérénice* were no match for such distractions, nor could they compellingly convey Racine's message when ordered to gabble their lines in duos. All the actors were barefoot. In grey or white karate pyjamas, and the set was a desolate beach out of a post-nuclear fantasia by Samuel Beckett.

Under such conditions, sympathy goes out to the actors, one of whom cracked his bare toe loudly against a hard part of the set. Another apparently had to be reminded of his lines by the actor sharing his role — but even if this was intentional, the cold, remote style of this production deprived it of any real emotional interest.

The cast resembled nothing more than the pretty youngsters in a listless film by Eric Rohmer, dithering on aimlessly. The edgy jumping and switching of focus between actors was like a film

maker who cuts the camera every second, not trusting his story or players to hold the attention of the public. When the two young men playing the Emperors Titus, Bruno-Karl Boss and Armand Decarsin, both promising talents, were obliged to embrace each other, the effect was odder than Narcissus kissing himself in a mirrored pool. As *Bérénice*, Katia Caballero and Fejira Deliba moved well but were unable to solve the aural problems of the production either.

By contrast, the audience itself was allowed no freedom of movement in a five-act play with no pause whatsoever. After two hours one ancient *dame* in the audience could manage no longer, and her exit and return from the lavabos drew as much attention as the onstage action.

The evening's best performance was given by Denis Podalydès in the small role of Arsace. Apart from a sincerity and naturalness in verse-speaking, Podalydès had the enviable advantage of having his role all to himself. *Bérénice's* symmetry, his habit of giving each main character a confidant with whom to speak, is an essential part of this writer's genius.

Doubling roles must warm the cockles of the French Actors' Union, who may now dream of Rist staging a Shakespeare or Brecht play that will cure the chronic problem of thespian unemployment. But Racine, *Bérénice* and the dusty jewel-box of the Athénée Theatre, in a hard-to-find alley of the 9th arrondissement, all deserve better than this.

BENJAMIN IVRY

## ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

### BOLOGNA

**BOURNEMOUTH** A programme of music by Arnold, Mozart, Nielsen and Schubert, conducted by Tamás Várady who also appears as piano soloist.  
Teatro Comunale, Largo  
Respect 1, Tel: (05 51) 529599, Mar 30

### COPENHAGEN

**THE BOURNEMOUTH FESTIVAL:** A week-long dance festival devoted to the work of Royal Danish Ballet's 19th-century choreographer August Bournonville (1805-1879) which features all his surviving works.  
Royal Theatre, Kongens Nytorv  
Tel: (45) 33141002. From Mar 28 until Apr 4

### GRANADA

**AL-ANDALUS — THE ART OF ISLAMIC SPAIN:** An exhibition which uses the splendid surroundings of Alhambra Palace, an outstanding example of Moorish architecture, to display some of the finest examples of Islamic art, bringing together more than 130 works from 70 institutions worldwide.  
Alhambra Museum, Tel: (34 95) 227527. Mon-Sat, 9am-5pm, Sun, 9am-4pm. Until June 7

### HAMBURG

**EMILIA GALOTTE:** Gotthold Ephraim Lessing's tragedy dealing with contemporary concepts of honour and betrayal, directed by Peter Lüscher. Leading the cast are Martin Quasthoff, Martina Fuchs, and Ingo Hölsmann.  
Deutsches Schauspielhaus, Kirchendamm, Tel: (49 40) 248710, Apr 1, 7, 14, 17, 22

### MILAN

**PERSEUS AND ANDROMEDA:** La Scala stages an opera by the young Italian composer Salvatore Sciaccino which received its world premiere last year in Stuttgart.  
Carmen Marie Carnegi conducts.

Teatro Alla Scala, Via  
Flaminiana 2, Tel: (39) 27203744,  
Mar 27, 28, 29, 31, Apr 1, 2

### MONTE CARLO

**DON QUICHOTTE:** Piero Faggoni's acclaimed production of Massenet's opera. The cast features two leading interpreters of Massenet, Ruggero Raimondi as Don Quichotte, and Gabriel Bacquier as Sancho.  
Opéra de Monte-Carlo, Caspary de Monte-Carlo, Tel: (33 93) 507654  
Mar 27, 29, Apr 1

### MUNICH

**WINTERQUARTEN:** A cabaret show devised by André Heller, paying tribute to the vanishing art of variety theatre.  
Deutsches Theater,  
Schwanthausstrasse 13, Tel: (49 89) 583427/514451. Until Mar 29

### PARIS

**GEORGES ROUAULT: THE FIRST PERIOD:** A must for anyone interested in French modern art, this retrospective concentrates on the artist's early years.  
Centre Georges Pompidou,  
Place Georges Pompidou, 4ème Tel: (33 1) 42711233. Until May 4

**TOULOUSE-LAUTREC:** From dancing horses to dancing girls, Toulouse-Lautrec captured French life with unrivalled veracity. This dynamic retrospective includes 200 works.  
Galerie Nationale du Grand Palais, avenue du Général Eisenhower, Tel: (33 1) 48043885. Until June 1

**CALIGULA:** Egyptian film director Youssef Chahine's treatment of the Roman emperor Nero and his recorded video sequences together with Egyptian music by Mohammed Nouh. As part of the Comédie's diverse new repertoire season.  
Comédie Française, 1 place Colette, Tel: (33 1) 40150015. Until June 30

6.00am Ceebs 6.30 BBC Breakfast News 9.05 Election Call 10.00 News, Regional News and Weather 10.05 Playdays 10.25 Radio 1 10.30 News 10.35 Children 11.00 News 11.05 Regional News 11.10 People Today 12.00 People Today 12.05 Regional News 12.10 News 1.00 News 1.30 News 1.50 News 2.15 News 2.30 News 2.50 News 3.00 News 3.15 News 3.30 News 3.45 News 3.50 News 4.00 News 4.15 News 4.30 News 4.45 News 4.50 News 5.00 News 5.10 News 5.20 News 5.30 News 5.45 News 5.50 News 6.00 News 6.15 News 6.30 News 6.45 News 6.50 News 7.00 News 7.15 News 7.30 News 7.45 News 7.50 News 8.00 News 8.15 News 8.30 News 8.45 News 8.50 News 9.00 News 9.15 News 9.30 News 9.45 News 9.50 News 10.00 News 10.15 News 10.30 News 10.45 News 10.50 News 11.00 News 11.15 News 11.30 News 11.45 News 11.50 News 12.00 News 12.15 News 12.30 News 12.45 News 12.50 News 1.00 News 1.15 News 1.30 News 1.45 News 1.50 News 2.00 News 2.15 News 2.30 News 2.45 News 2.50 News 3.00 News 3.15 News 3.30 News 3.45 News 3.50 News 4.00 News 4.15 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